DISTRICT 11 – LPA Newsclips Vol. 1 1961 - 1967

S1101

S1101

District 11 – Brief History

Little People of America, LPA, was founded in Reno, Nevada, in 1957.

Twenty individuals responded to Billy Barty's invitation to gather and discuss the formation of an organization to address issues facing people with short stature. At that meeting Billy Barty, California, was elected the first President of LPA and Dan Turner, South Carolina, was elected Vice President, elect.

The second national convention of LPA was held in Las Vegas, Nevada. Dan Turner was then President. A governance proposal was introduced and accepted by the membership in attendance. The governance proposal included a National Leadership of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and 11 District Directors who would serve as the Board of Directors. Each District Director was also responsible for recruiting members and organizing events and activities within the states served by each district.

District 11 included the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, a territory covering 1,080,182 sq. miles. The first Director was Lloyd King, a barber who lived in the Tacoma area, and the Secretary was Shirley Berg, of Birkenfeld, Oregon.

District 11 Newsclips 1961 – 1976

Persons, Events, Places

1961

Alexander, Joe
Anderson, Mrs Albert
Barty, Billy
Barty, shirley
Berg, Shirley
Birkenfeld, Oregon
Bradshaw, Tom
Brandisma, Evelyn
Brooks, Wally
Desart, Allen
Furlong, Emma
Gant, Muriel
Gant, Vivian
Gossage, Willis
Groeneveld, Frieda
Johnson, Waino & Lillie
King, Lloyd
Kitchens, Lee
McDonald, Ken
Nichols, Kenneth
Olllis, Margaret
Owen, Agnes
Reed, Stevie
Sutton, Mrs M. J.
Trapp, Joel
Warr, Earl
Wennes, Alice
Ziska, Dallas & Martha

1962

Barty, Billy
Berg, Shirley
Brooks, Wally
Carr, Larry
Groeneveld, Frieda
Reed, Stevie

1963

Albough, Bill
Brooks, Mr. and Mrs
Daly, Louise
Groenveld, Frieda
Haywar, Tom

1964

Berg, Shirley
Bradshaw, Tom
Brooks, Wally
Darrington, Wash
Furlong, Emma
Gant, Vivian
Groenveld, Frieda
Owen, Agnes
Pemble, Penny
Reed, Stevie

1965

]Kelly, Faye
Albough, Bill
Berg, Shirley
Bradshaw, Tom
Carr, Larry
Curtis, Delores
Furlong, Emma
Gant, Muriel
Gant, Vivian
Groenveld, Frieda
Hayward, Tom
Huizenga, Buck
Lynnwood, Wash
Maren, Jerry
McLeod, Richard
Pemble, Penny

1966

1966

Alexander, Joe
Barta, Mrs Thomas
Bartolotti, Karen
Berg, Shirley
Gant, Vivian
Groenveld, Frieda
Hood Canal, Wash
Leonard, Lingle
Lynnwood, Wash
McLeod, Richard
Megenity, Jim
Myers, Eleanor
Newberg, Oregon
Owen, Agnes
Pemble, Penny
Reed, Stevie
Scharrer, Louis R.
Vermillion, Jo Lynn

1967

Albrecht, Angie
Alexander, Joe & Martha
Barty, Billy
Belanger, Clark
Berg, Shirley
Bertolotti, Karen
Birkenfeld, Oregon
Bradford, David
Bradford, Randy
Bradford, B.J.
Furlong, Emma
Groenveld, Frieda
Harris, Sandra
Henderson, Tom
Hollywood, Calif
Hubof, Robert
Kitchens, Lee and Mary
Longview, Wash
Owen, Agnes
Perfetti, Donna
Reckendorf, Frank and Lisa
Reckendorf, Peter
Reed, Stevie
Roethle, Susan
Rossitto, George
Shaw, Genevieve
Silla, Felix
Spokane, Wash
Steele, Gracie & Henry
Street, Henry & Gracie
Thomas, Lydia
Van Loo, Mardi
VanLoo, Gloria
Vining, Fern
Vining, Ralph
Wade, Mimi

1968

Albrecht, Angie
Alexander, Joe
Alexander, Marth
Baltimore, Maryland
Barty, Billy
Berg, Linda
Carr, Mr and Mrs Larry
Carter, Sid
Corvallis, Oregon
Erdman, Harold
Gehrman, Art
Goldendale, Wash
Groenveld, Frieda
Harris, Doyle
Howard, Darin
Howard, Jody
Hubof, Robert
Kuhlman, Hank
Kuhlman, Kayla
McLeod, Richard
Pemble, Penny
Poulsbo, Wash
Street, Henry & Gracie
Vinning, Fern

1969

Albough, Bill & Marie
Berg, Linda
Groenveld, Frieda
Harris, Doyle
Lee, Darin
Lee, Judy
Lindholm, Grant
Minneapolis, Minn
Olympia, Wash
Pullman, Wash
Reckendorf, Karel
Reckendorf, Lisa
Reckendorf, Peter
Ronning, Jill

1970

Alexander, Joe
Barta, Mary
Bedow, Charles
Coeur d' Alene, Idaho
Corbin, Barbara
Eley, Mary Beth
Groenveld, Frieda
Hubof, Robert
Kuhlman, Kayla
Lee, Mrs Robert
Malecki, James
Olympia, Wash
Pemble, Penny
Pocock, Charles
Portland, OR
Reckendorf, Lisa
Reckendorf, Peter & Karel
Reckendorf, Peter and Karel
Tacoma, Wash
Vining, Fern
Whorton, Sharon
Zellman, Marilyn

1971

Alexander, Martha
Scharrer, Louis R.
Shaw, Evan
Van Loo, Gloria

Other Districts (OD)

1962

Barty, Billy and Shirley
Carlino, Nino & Maryjane

1963

Binion, Dennis
Kitchens, Lee and Mary
Kitchens, Sandra
Polston, Phyllis
Warr, Earl

1964

Alden, Mrs Maurice
Bourassa, Alice
Brock, Mrs, Norman
Brock, Norman
Brower, Bob & Marcella
Hughes, Clarence
Phoenix, Arizona
Taylor, Mrs. Danny
Waddel, Mr & Mrs Fred
Warr, Earl
Wilcoxson, Hazel
Willer, David

1965

Baehm, George
Bakersfield, Calif
Barty, Billy
Bedow, Charles
Bedow, Sallie
Brown Kenneth
Dee, Frank
District 12
Dolinajek, Paul
Dunn, Michael
Gloucheter, N.J.
Helassie, Saile
Hinkson, Bob
Hoppert, Harriet
Hubof,Robert
Human Growth Hormone
Jackie, Irish
Jacobs, Marshall & Bobby
Kitchens, Lee
Mikos, Anne
Moore, Marcia
Ostrow, Eleanor
Perryman, Mary Belle
Riley, Harold
Schuster, Kathy
Spector, Robert
Welbes, Ralph
White, Alan
Wiliams, Ernel & Herbert

1967

Hoppert, Harriet
Human Growth Hormone
Kling, Stevie
Stickney, Al

1968

Dunn, Michael
Genetics
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Kitchens, Lee
McKusick, Dr. Victor
Moore Clinic
National Pituitary Agency
Pentorn, Phyllis
Spector, Robert

1969

Berg, Linda
Burgin, Robert
East, Bpb
Hagen, Jill
Hagen, Mr. & Mrs. James
Rasa, Gerald
Stickney, Harriet

1970

Barty, Billy
Boursse, Andre
Stickney, Al
Strange, Carolyn

1971

Brooks, Wally

1972

Alexander, Joe and Martha
Billy Barty
Brooks, Wally
Burley, Idaho
Chicago, Illinois
Hall, Dr. Judy
Howard, Mrs Wally
Howard, Polly & Sandy
McKusick, Dr. Victor
Myers, Jennie and Lyle
Siebens, Dr. Arthur
Spraker, Mrs Jack
Stickney, Al & Harriet

1973

Genetic Counseling
Hall, Dr. Judy
Spraker, Barbara & Jack
Mezaros, Mihaly
Brooks, Wally

Pacheco, Sergio

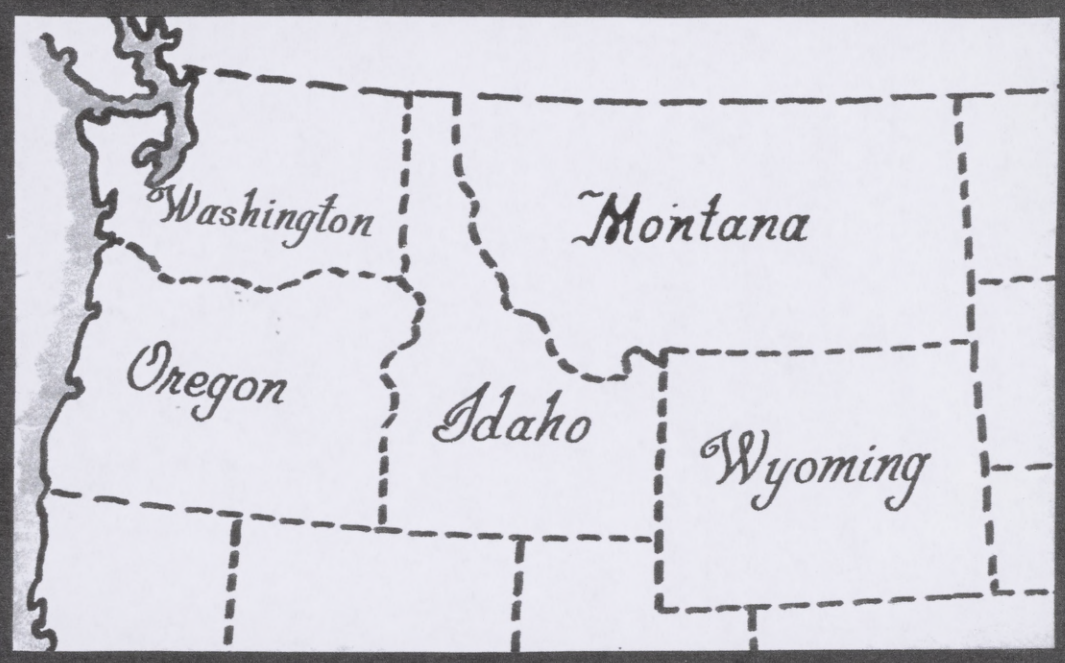
1976

Beckman, John

Denny's Restraunt

1961
to
1964

District 11



Largest District
in L.D.A. covering
an area of ~
1,080,182 sq. miles

National Convention
Riverside Hotel
Reno, Nev.
Apr. 3-5
1957

1961
District
Portland
Feb 19 Ore.

1961
District-
Bakersfield,
June 18 Ore.

1960
National Convention
Los Vegas,
Nevada
Nov 8-
Dec 1

1961
National-
Las Vegas,
Nevada
Nov 8-
Dec 1

1962
District-
Delake,
Ore.
Apr. 4-5

1963
National-
Des Moines
Iowa
July 29- Aug 1

1964
National-
Phoenix
Arizona
July
27-31

1962
National-
Asheville, N.C.
Nov 26-
30

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 4 DISTRICT II NEWSLETTER July 3, 1961

SHADES OF RIP VAN WINKLE

If old sleepy Rip Van Winkle had awoke on the morning of June 18 in the hills adjacent to Birkenfeld, Oregon he would have heard singing and laughter resounding through the hills. He surely would have thought he was in his beloved Katskill mountains of New York State. His sleepy old eyes would have seen a gathering of "Little People" (15 in all) from the states of Washington, Oregon and California, who had gathered together for their summer picnic...on Robert Berg's farm--father of Shirley, our district secretary.

By the sounds that echoed and re-echoed through the valley, they were having the time of their lives--talking, singing, and joking. There was also the sweet notes of a bird song carried on a summer breeze, which later was discovered to be coming from a human bird, who had everyone listening and laughing! If old Rip had stopped and looked real close, he would have seen the newest jewel in the whole Northwest. Nothing more or less than a brand new baby girl--the most beautiful and sweetest little thing that could ever be! He also would have seen two of the proudest parents to be found anywhere!! It is too bad that all "Little People" everywhere were not able to see the sights that greeted the eyes of sleepy old Rip Van Winkle that sunny day in June...

OUR PICNIC GROUP

Many of the "Little People" had arrived Saturday night and had slept under the big cedar trees in the yard. The next morning more "Little People" arrived. During the morning old acquaintances were re-newed and new ones were formed. Inquiry was made about those not present with the hope expressed that they would be present at the next get-together. Come noon time, the "Little People" stopped bouncing around and settled down to enjoy the most sumptuous picnic dinner to be imagined. There were salads of many kinds, jellos, cakes, sandwiches, pickles and relishes and what happened to the ham roast should not happen to anything! It did not stand a chance in that crowd! This was topped off with ice cream and fresh red ripe strawberries, with lots of good coffee and fresh-from-the-farm milk. There seemed to be no end to the good things to eat--only to ones capacity to eat! There surely was no malnutrition at that picnic...

After almost two days of good fellowship and fun, as all things must, it had to come to an end. Some stayed until Monday morning before starting home. Soon peace and quiet settled again over the valley, but I doubt if the hills will ever be the same again after what happened that wonderful weekend in June. To Shirley, our most gracious and over-worked hostess, and to our host, Robert Berg, we say from the bottom of our hearts, thanks a million for a most wonderful picnic. We all had a grand time.

Someone please pass the Sun-burn lotion...
Boy! am I bushed...

"King"

.....

The following attended the picnic: Wally Brooks, Agnes Owen, Emma Furlong, Frieda Groeneveld, Ken McDonald, Vivian Gant, Stevie Reed, Lloyd King, Waino and Lillie Johnson, Kenneth Nichols, Dallas and Martha Ziska, George Alexander, and Shirley Berg.

Hi Everyone! The picnic was fun--it is a day to be long remembered! It was nice to see those who were at the gathering in February and it was fun meeting the new ones who had never been with us before. We all enjoyed having you here--every bit of it was very pleasant. I am surely thankful that the weather was so nice--it was JUST RIGHT! I hope that we can do something like this again before the summer is over. My Father and my two brothers found it interesting to meet all of you, and they all had a good time too.

We of this District, are now District 11.- The districts have been re-organized and they have all been changed. There are now 14 instead of 11. We no longer have Alaska in our District--but we do have Washington, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, and Oregon. The "Little People of America" is now incorporated in these United States as a Non-Profit Organization.

SHIRLEY BERG & LLOYD KING

I have received several newsletters from various districts. It is fascinating to know what is going on in the other districts. This next quotation is from Marjorie Bourassa's newsletter (Marjorie is from New Hampshire and she is Chairman of the district there):

"In regards to transportation to the National Convention, it has been suggested that if we can get between 35 and 40 people to travel by bus, the fare would be less than $100.00 per person. Starting place to be announced later. Let us know your views on this subject."

The reason I quoted the above paragraph is because I thought that perhaps we might be able to do something like this over here in the Pacific Northwest. At least it gives us an idea what other people might be doing. The convention dates are November 27,28,29, and 30 at the Hacienda Hotel again, in Las Vegas, Nevada. I will give you more information on everything concerning the convention when I receive it.

Time to bring this to a close. Thank you again for coming to the picnic--it was fun!! Sorry I am late in getting the newsletter off this month. I got involved in picking and preparing strawberries (canning, freezing, making jams etc.) and had to neglect some of my other duties around here. The strawberries are all put away now so am getting this off to you. Thank you for your letters etc. I plan to answer all of them.

Sincerely,

Shirley

.....

NOTES AND COMMENTS...by Lloyd King

It was nice to see such a good turnout for our summer picnic. There were 15 Little People present.

A warm welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Waino Johnson of Sacramento, California. They were on their vacation and arrived here in time for the picnic. Mr. Johnson was the sweet sounding bird we all enjoyed. Later they drove to Seattle, Washington.

We are glad to welcome several new "Little People" to our Northwest group. They are George Alexander of Everett, Washington; Kenneth Nichols and Ken McDonald of Portland, Oregon; and Agnes Owen of Centralia, Washington. Also the young son of Mr. and Mrs. Al Reed of Delake, Oregon. You all are most welcome. Please come again.

Here is a big, Thanks alot to Shirley's father for the use of his farm and all the help he gave to make our picnic a success. Thanks also to the different ladies

who helped. It was very nice.

There is nothing that one can say that will come anywhere near to fully describing the new jewel of the Northwest--Little Miss Dalla Ziska. Martha and Dallas are to be congratulated on having such a beautiful and nice baby girl. Everyone is happy for you both. All right Dallas, you can stop taking bows and get back to work! It costs money you know, to raise a young lady in the manner in which she wants to become accustomed. So get back to work--it is there waiting for you!

Bob Dykeman, hurry and get strong again...it won't be long until it is time to Go to Las Vegas. The tentative dates are November 27 through the 30th.

There will be a regional meeting in Washington, D.C. July 21-22-23.

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QUOTES FROM LETTERS:

A few lines from Dan Turner, our National President whose address is P.O. Box 1951, Asheville, North Carolina : "Received the newsletter and thanks alot. I am enclosing a list of the District Chairman and their addresses...Had a nice letter from Lloyd and you all are doing a swell job. Keep up the good work. I sure would like to attend one of your picnics. Give my regards to all of them..."

Earl Warr, P.O. Box 484, Goodyear, Arizona: "I enjoy reading your newsletter. It is always so interesting. Keep up the good work...Yes, we had a get-together of our district in Grants, New Mexico. I drove over on May 26 and spent the night at the Lesters. Saturday we went on a picnic and all enjoyed the weekend. Launa (Shelton) and Herb Kinzel were married on June 3 in the Little Brown Church in North Hollywood. A reception was held that night in their home. Anna Dixon and I stood up with them. There were about 50 people at the reception...mostly Little People. A good time was had by all. I go East almost every summer to see my folks. This time I am trying to arrange my trip so I can take in the Eastern convention. If I can make it, I will let you know all about it. I am sure a good time will be had by all that attend.."

Mrs. Albert Anderson, 970 Green Avenue, San Bruno, California: "Albert brought your newletter over to me. I am still at the Home. The six weeks will be up a week from Next Monday so I can go home then. I will have to stay in bed for a few weeks at home. Lillie and Waino Johnson and their friends from Burbank called on me a few weeks ago. Was so glad to see them. Albert's sister and husband are keeping house for Albert. His sister is going to stay and keep house for me..." (Perhaps you can recall that last month I quoted a letter from Lillie Johnson who mentioned that Mrs. Anderson had fallen).

Wally Brooks, 709 S. W. Clay Street, Portland 1, Oregon: "Am enclosing the newsletter I received a few days ago from Marjorie Bourassa and thought maybe you would like to see and read it also. The copy you made up and mailed to me (our newsletter), I forwarded on to Marjorie to read."

Margaret Ollis, Box 315, Crossnore, North Carolina: "Lloyd sends me a copy of the Newsletter from your district, and I think you two are doing a wonderful job...I read every word of it and then pass it on to someone else to read...it is real interesting..."

Ebelyn Brandsma, 1771 So. Corona Street, Denver 10, Colorado: "Thank you for your newsletter. It was really good and I appreciate your sending it to me. Are you going to the convention this fall? I sure am planning on it..."

Willis Gossage, 117 Harlow Avenue, McFarland, California..."It is hot here. A few days ago it got up as high as 115 degrees. It came on so suddenly that people just about dropped in

their tracks...Delores and Dwayne Mitchell are up on vacation and we are to have a little get-together tonight..!

Mrs. M. J. Sutton, 3543 Summers Lane, Klamath Falls, Oregon: "I received your newsletter and was very tickled to get it. I hope you will send it to me again...I have been married for 11 years and have two nice daughters who are 7 and 9. They are both taller than I am, but I am still boss, (I hope). I operate a small neighborhood grocery store here in Klamath Falls...I would like to sell it very badly because it is getting too much work for me. So pass the word around..."

.....

This month our newsletter has a new look which I am sure all of you are aware of. We are happy to announce that Mr. and Mrs. Al Reed of Delake, Oregon printed this one up. We are grateful for their services. The pictures in this newsletter are from their camera. All I had to do this time was to type the copy up and send it on down to them. Mr. and Mrs. Reed brought their small son, Stevie to the picnic here. We enjoyed meeting all of them.

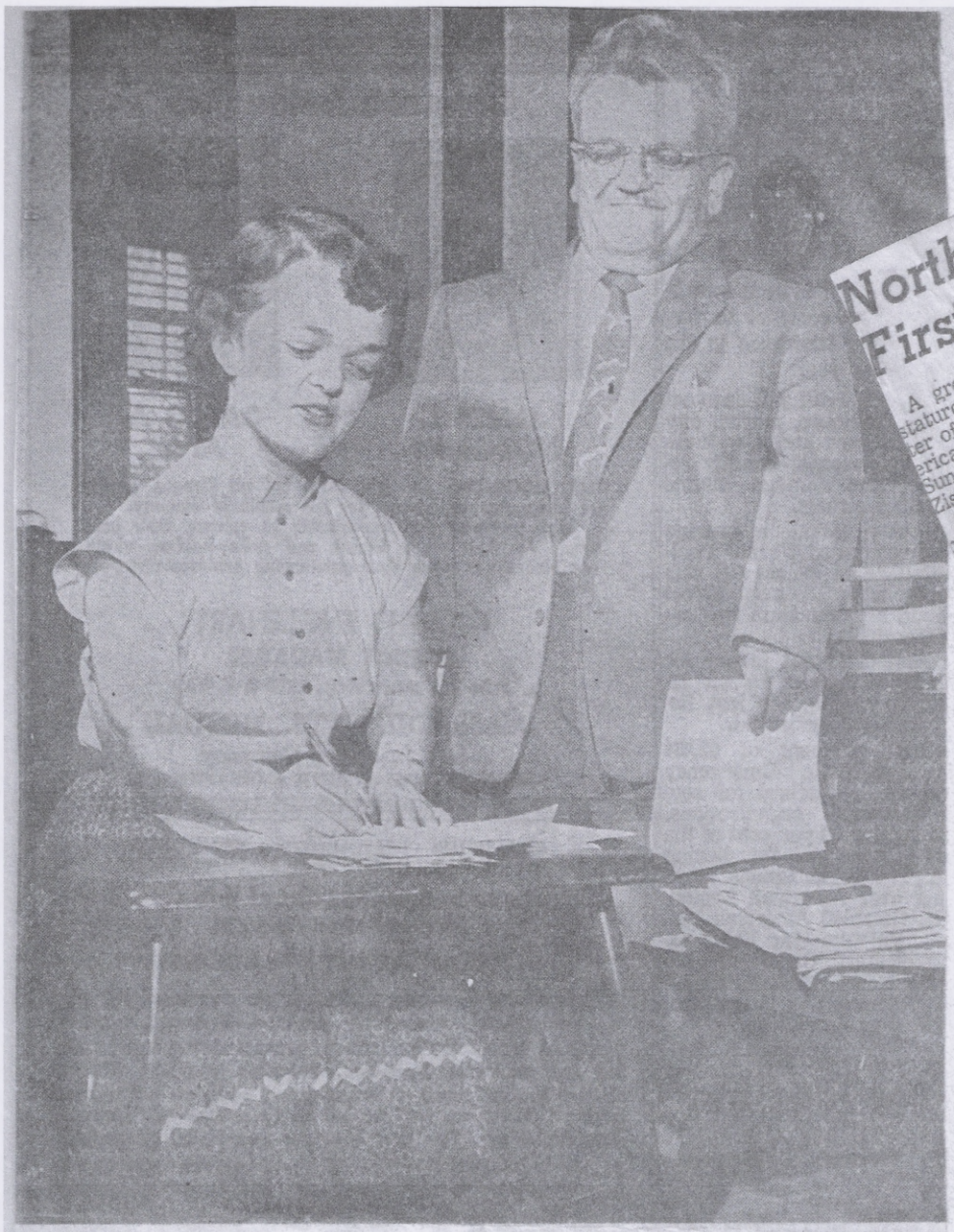
CAN YOU FIND YOURSELF?

District 11 Chairman:

Lloyd King,
2012 E. Fourth,
Olympia, Washington

District 11 Secretary:

Shirley R. Berg.
Birkenfeld, Oregon



PLANS FOR A LITTLE PICNIC were jotted down on a stool Sunday by Shirley Berg, secretary of the Northwest Division of the Little People of America, and Lloyd King, chairman. "There's nothing small about our appetites," members said.

Northwest Midgets Hold First Regional Conclave

Oregonian 2-20-61

A group of people small in stature, the Northwest Chapter of the Little People of America, had its first meeting Sunday at the home of Dallas Ziska, 8930 SE Lincoln St.

The things they considered related to problems, as well as some advantages, of people who must cope with a civilization whose products are produced for larger people and whose attitudes sometimes categorize small people as "different" in other than size.

On the agenda was the problem of attracting other small people to their group. First, one is certain just how many midgets there are in the Northwestern states, "Twelve in Oregon, perhaps," Ziska estimated, "and perhaps 12 in Washington; maybe 50 in the six Northwestern states. It's awfully hard to know."

Isolation Common

Some small people, as some bigger people, live apart and resist social contacts. Some are adjusted to a life pattern that sees no need for joining a group based on size alone. But others are afraid of seeing others of the same size. Some have never been with little people," said Shirley Berg, Berkenfeld, secretary of the group. "It's a real shock the first time," to meet a group of them for the first time."

Last year's national meeting in California was a profound experience to many. "You know, we see the world just as you bigger people do," said Lloyd King, Seattle, chairman of the Northwest district. "We look through our eyes at things and don't see ourselves as others do — and when we saw 150 little people, it was frightening," King's observation raised a bit of speculation:

A six-footer suddenly landing among 150 people of much smaller size — that would be startling. For awhile he would feel "lost," in a sense. But a midget would have the same reaction , later to be modified by an increased awareness of the difference in size between himself and most people.

Advantage Inherent

Many of the group find themselves at home in the space age, being naturals for delicate work inside rocket noses cones and other small assemblies.

Not for a moment, however, are these people ruled out of more prosaic jobs. Represented in the group were a teacher, county clerk, Army engineer, barber, bartender, gift shop manager and several entertainers.

The next event planned is a picnic, for which the date has not yet been set.

The Little People met at the home of Freda Groeneveld at Everett, Wn., on Saturday. Shirley Berg attended and her brother, Erik Berg, was a visitor there. They had dinner at the Frontier Village at Lake Stevens, then later had their business meeting in the banquet rooms. On Sunday they went to the Fair.

SHIRLEY BERG ON TV NEWS PROFILE

Shirley R. Berg, daughter of Robert L. Berg of Birkenfeld, was on of three members of the organization known as "The Little People of America," who were featured on News Profile, KGW TV Sunday night news and human interest program.

Interviewed with Miss Berg on the portion of the program featuring the Little People of America were Dallas and Martha Ziska of Portland. Doug Baker News Profile producer, and cameraman Tom McEnry visited at the Ziska home and conducted an interview on their adjustments to the big world around them; the difference between midgets and dwarfs, what the chances are of dwarfed couples having normal children and events of the recent convention in Las Vegas. They also visited Mr. Ziska at the Millstream Inn where he is a chef.

Miss Berg anonunced this week that the little people are planning a get-together of midgets and dwarfs at the Ziska home in Portland on Sunday, Feb. 19. Anyone of the area who knows of any little persons who would be interested in the gathering or would be interested in getting in touch with the national organization is asked to contact Miss Berg, secretary of the Northwest district. Miss Berg will in turn contact the national secretary, Mrs. Luana Shelton of Phoenix, Arizona.

LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA, INC.

LLOYD (LITTLE SHAVER) KING
DISTRICT CHAIRMAN

2012 EAST 4TH STREET
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

City's Little People Found to Be Really Big

By LOUISE AARON

Little people—those who do not grow to normal size—are often "big" people, a Portland Reporter team learned Sunday.

Members of the Northwest district, Little People of America, were in weekend session here to discuss ways to achieve better understanding among all people—regardless of size.

Sunday, they drove in their standard-size autos to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Ziska, 8930 SE Lincoln, for a get-together and feast prepared by Ziska, a Portland chef.

They were about to sit down to the well-appointed table when we entered. Graciously, they made us forget we were delaying the meal.

"We have learned to adjust to the world," said a pretty young matron. They have to, because most of their lives are spent among people of normal size.

Sometimes such people find their size a handicap jobwise, one revealed. Like others, they want to be accepted on their own qualifications.

Those at the Ziska home included a barber, a secretary, a store proprietor, twin sisters of the entertainment world, an accountant-timekeeper for a construction firm, a supervisory clerk, a college student, a widow, homemakers and, of course, the host chef and his pretty wife, an expectant mother.

Lloyd M. King, an Olympia, Wash., barber and chairman of the Northwest district, which includes Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Alaska, attended the national convention at Las Vegas.

"All of a sudden there were 110 of us. It was a new world," he said. They are so accustomed to adjusting their lives to others that it was something of a jolt "to finally meet people straight in the eye," as one laughingly put it.

One young matron, whose husband also is near her under-4-foot height, said their best friends have similar problems but for different reasons. Those best friends are quite tall people.

Are clothes a special problem for little people?

"No trouble at all," said the well-dressed matron. "I simply haul out the sewing machine." Shoes are more of a problem; sometimes must be custom made. We noticed the well-dressed look of the men in tailored suits.

"We have much for which to be thankful. I thank God for my two good legs, my two good hands, my good health and a good mind. The only thing different about me is that God made my legs about a foot shorter," one woman said.

Although it presents a handicap she is conscious that others are more handicapped and, unlike herself and her husband, are not self sufficient.

One guest, Mrs. Muriel Gant of Edmonds, Wash., is not numbered among the little people. She had accompanied her daughter Vivian, who celebrated her 23d birthday Feb. 12. She helps around the house, engages in some handcrafts and radiates happiness.

Shirley and Delores Curtis live with their family in Salem. These twins have spent 25 of their 30 years in show business.

"We love it. Show business gets into your blood. We have traveled with carnivals and circuses and performed at Jantzen Beach. We sing (they did for us), dance, work the trapeze and I play guitar," said Shirley. The rest of their family are "big" people.

Shirley Berg, secretary of the Northwest group, has done some newspaper correspondence. Her important job now is homemaker at Birkenfeld for her father and two brothers.

Frieda Groeneveld of Everett, Wash., is a sophomore at Seattle Pacific college, majoring in education. She looks forward to a teaching career.

● Host and hostess at gathering of Northwest Chapter of Little People of America Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Ziska, 8930 SE Lincoln. He is chef, prepared meal.

● Mother and daughter from Edmonds, Wash., took time at little people's gathering to look at photos of group's activities. Vivian Gant, only 41 inches tall, turns pages for her normal size mother, Mrs. Muriel Gant.

APR · 61 ·

APR · 61

Stevie Reed

Little People Name Officers

Miss Shirley Berg, 30, Birkenfeld, was elected secretary of District No. 1 at the Little People of America convention in Las Vegas.

Miss Berg, a graduate of Vernonia High School, will assist Lloyd M. King, Olympia, who was elected president of the district at the first national convention.

District No. 1 includes Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Alaska. Miss Berg said all little people in these states are invited to become members of Little People of America.

L-R - Back -
Emma Furlong, Lillie Johnson, Shirley Berg
Front -
Vivian Gant; Martha Ziska; Agnes Owens; Frieda Groeneveld

L-R Back -
Wains Johnson; Dallas Ziska; Lloyd King; Kenneth Nichols; Wally Brooks
Front -
Ken MacDonald; Steven Reed; Joe Alexander

Vernonia Eagle
THURSDAY, AUG. 16, 1962 7

Little People To Picnic Here

BIRKENFELD — The Little People of District 11 will spend next week end at the Robert Berg home. A picnic will be held Sunday.

COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1961

Little People of Northwest Picnic at Birkenfeld

Little people from three states gathered at the Robert Berg farm near Birkenfeld Sunday for the first picnic of District 11 of the Little People of America. Shirley Berg, district secretary was hostess for the picnic which was attended by 15 Little People from Oregon, Washington and California. Members of the organization which was formed in this district at a national convention in Las Vegas, Nev. last year are planning further contacts in the future. In attendance at the picnic were Lloyd King, Olympia, Wash., district president; George Alexander and Frieda Groeneveld, Everett, Wash.; Wallace E. Brook, Kenneth Nichols and Dallas and Martha Ziska all of Portland; Vivian Gant, Edmonds, Wash.; Emma Furlong, Rochester, Wash.; Kenneth McDonald, Milwaukie and Stevie Reed, son of Mr. and Mrs. Al Reed, Delake, Oregon. (Chief Photo)

LEE KITCHENS
GERMANIUM DEVICE ENGINEER
SEMICONDUCTOR - COMPONENTS DIVISION

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS
INCORPORATED

P. O. BOX 312
DALLAS, TEXAS
ADAMS 5-3111

MAR. 1961

2d Section
Seattle Post - Intelligencer
Sports, Classified
Finance, Ships
Tues., July 11, 1961 S 17

Short In Size But Tall In Love: Two Little Persons To Wed

Two little people came hand-in-hand to the King County Marriage License Bureau, only one of them able to see over it, and he just barely.

Kenneth Dwayne Nichols, 27, is four feet, six and a half inches. His bride-to-be, Vivian Elaine Gant, 23, is forty-one inches, her mother said, although Vivian appeared to be even shorter.

They will be married the afternoon of July 30 in the home of Mrs. Mary Wamsley of Edmonds, friend of the bride.

THE COUPLE'S witness when they applied for their license was the bride's mother, Mrs. Muriel M. Gant of 227-2nd Ave. N. in Edmonds, with whom Vivian lives.

The small man and woman became acquainted some months ago through the Little People of America Club, made up of midgets. Their courtship was mostly by mail. Nichols lives at 7114 NE 47th St. in Portland where they will [illegible] home until they can find a house where things can be cut down to size of a bride [illegible]y as tall as the stand-kitchen stove.

MRS. MURIEL GANT (REAR), VIVIAN GANT AND KENNETH NICHOLS
Big Day Looms For Pair Applying For Marriage License
—(Post-Intelligencer Photo.)

SHIRLEY BERG of Berkenfield, secretary of the Northwest Chapter of Little People of America and winner of a $500 scholarship at the recent national convention in Las Vegas, Nev., is pictured with Lloyd King, Olympia, Wash., president of the local LPOA. Some 150 persons attended meeting.

Vivian Gant & Kenneth Nichols

L-R - Vivian Gant; Kenneth Nichols
Frieda Groeneveld

'Little' Oregon Girl Receives Scholarship

Miss Shirley Berg of Birkenfeld, in Columbia County received the $500 elementary educational sholarship at the convention of the Little People of America held in Las Vegas, Nev. the last week of November. Of the three scholarships available to little people, this one was donated by Warren Bailey, a director of the Hacienda Hotel that played host to the group, paying the major expenses.

The petite Miss Berg was judged best qualified of several applicants for this scholarship. Miss Berg, besides keeping house for her full size father and two teenage brothers, is superintendent of her church school. She held a secretarial job until the death of her mother a few years ago. She is also secretary of the northwest district of the LPOA ocmprising five states.

Other northwest delegation members playing a part in the convention were District Chairman Lloyd King of Olympia, Wash., and George Alexander, Everett, Wash., who were on the new information booklet Committee. This pamphlet will be made available to employment centers throughout the country and will explain the capabilities of little people.

Alexander, who is a special education teacher, also took part in seminars on education, employment, and for parents. King is a member of the National Board of Directors.

About 150 members of the national group of 400 were present. The mailing list consists of about 350 more little people.

Founder of the three year old national organization and world traveler - entertainer Billy Barty, was head of the convention and got it under way before he had to leave for a job for the government. He donated $100 towards the work of the group.

Others in the northwest delegation were Joel Trapp of Eugene, Wally Brooks of Portland, Mary Sutton of Klamath Falls, and Steven Reed and parents of Delake.

The next convention will be in Ashville, North Carolina, home of the president, Dan Turner. The past two conventions have been held at Las Vegas where the little people and their families were free guests of the Hacienda Resort Hotel. Free tournaments, games, parties and night club shows were provided as well as transportation.

The 150 attending were from all parts of the United States and represented many diverse occupations from airplane workers, through many self owned businesses, the entertainment field and all professions but the medical one. Even a contiere was there who conducted the style show of the handmade and often self designed clothing of the little ladies.

Tom Bradshaw
-Napavine, Washington
Emma Furlong
-Rochester, Washington

ROMANTIC ANNOUNCEMENT—The engagement and June wedding plans of Miss Alice Mae Wenness and Allen Dale DeSart are announced by her mother, Mrs. Michael D. Wenness. The bride-elect, the daughter of the late Mr. Wenness, is a teacher in the Heartwood Elementary School at McChord Air Force Base. The future benedict is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan DeSart. The couple plan a June wedding in the Temple Baptist Church.—Photo by Walters Studio.

June 12,

Pair Wed At Church Ceremony

The Temple Baptist Church was the scene of the recent wedding uniting Miss Alice Mae Wenness and Allen Dale DeSart.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Michael Daniel Wenness and the late Mr. Wenness, and the bridegroom, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Dale DeSart.

William C. Wenness, the bride's brother, escorted his sister to an altar banked with orchids and antherium, flown in from Hawaii, a gift from the bride's sister, Mrs. J. Clem Marques, and baskets of

—Photo by Bud Hartung
MR. AND MRS. ALLEN DALE DeSART
Alice Mae Wenness

gladioli. The Rev. Eugene W. Barnes read the marriage service.

The bride wore a floor-length gown with batteau neckline and set-in sleeves. The waistline was accented with a cummerbund and bow in back cascading into a train. A Swedish crown was attached to a shoulder-length veil of illusion and she carried a white lace handkerchief and a bouquet of miniature white rosebuds centered with white orchids.

Miss Cherrie Mills was maid of honor, and Miss Penny DeSart, sister of the bridegroom, Judy Chaney and Miss Lois Gothlin, attendants.

Keith B. DeSart was best man for his brother, and John Kosche, James Caddey, Donald Carson, Duane DeSart and Jon Carpenter, ushered.

A reception was held in the church parlors immediately following the wedding.

The couple are presently making their home in Tacoma, where the bride is a teacher in the Heartwood School at McChord Air Force Base.

District Meeting -
Portland, Oregon

Little People Attend The Little World's Fair

BIRKENFELD — Shirley Berg went in to Portland Saturday. She attended a meeting of the little people Sunday. Later the group went to the Little World's Fair at Damascus.

Scenes From Opening Day

IT WAS A GREAT DAY: Opening day at the Little World's Fair included a parade, releasing of 500 message laden balloons and Indian dancing performances along with several other events. Above, left, an Indian Chief performs atop a truck during the parade. Center, Billy Barty clowns on a miniature covered wagon. Right, a young visitor catches a balloon.

Friday, June 22, 1962 Page One

The DAMASCUS PIONEER

Volume One Official Publication of the Little World's Fair, Damascus, Oregon Number Two

Steven Reed of Delake shows off the family train project to the visitors attending a two day get-together at his home recently. Ten Northwest District of Little People of America held the board meetings here April 4-5. Next to the table on the left are teacher Frieda Groenveld, Wally Brooks of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who recently won two citations from his office, chairman Shirley Berg and teacher Mrs. Evan Shaw. Behind are Art student Larry Carr and Mrs. Brooks.

District Meeting

Steve Reed, Host

Little World Of Billy Barty Has Big Problems, Boons

SHOPPING problems are overcome by Billy Barty, 3 foot, 9 inches, by gymnastic feats such as heave-up to reach produce in frozen food compartment.

GOLFING is easy with these scaled-down clubs presented to him on "This is Your Life." Richard Field looks on.

Damascus Little Fair Ambassador Finds Many Things Over His Head

By RICHARD FIELD
Staff Writer, The Oregonian

"My problems are mostly little ones," said Little Billy Barty, summing up his difficulties in coping with life from the 3 foot 9 inch level.

"Sometimes things seem a bit over my head, but I usually rise to the occasion," he joked.

Little Billy is spending the summer in Gresham, working at nearby Damascus as Little Ambassador of the Little World's Fair.

Those little problems don't crop up at the fair—that's scaled down to Billy's size. They occur in everyday living, he said.

It might be reaching something off the top shelf of a supermarket counter, adjusting a shower nozzle in his motel room, or getting the ice tray from the refrigerator.

But bouncy Billy has had 37 years to find a way of overcoming his shortcomings. And nothing keeps him down for long.

In the supermarket he startles assistants by walking like an ant up the sides of the shelves, using them like a staircase.

Balancing Act

At the deep freeze compartment, he does a gymnastic heave and balances on his stomach while he selects his frozen foods.

At the motel, where he's staying the summer, he pulls out the kitchen drawers, and uses them to climb up to reach cans on the top shelf. His wife—she's 4 feet tall—stands on a little platform to reach the stove.

He strives today, as he has throughout life, to avoid letting his size interfere with his leading a normal and full life.

In college, in Los Angeles, he won his letter for football and basketball (he swears), and today plays a fine game of golf—"I shot an 89 on the west side of Glendoveer last week," he said.

He goes most places in a small English Sunbeam Rapier car, with a raised platform for his feet and extended controls.

Trip Trouble-Free

"I drove here from Los Angeles in 21 hours without any trouble," he said.

Clothes are another of Billy's little problems. His suits have to be hand made and cost $150 each. A pair of shoes may run him $50 to $75.

Billy admits he's more fortunate than most of America's little people. Some, he said, suffered from overprotection in their childhood, and have never really learned to face up to the bigger-than-life world.

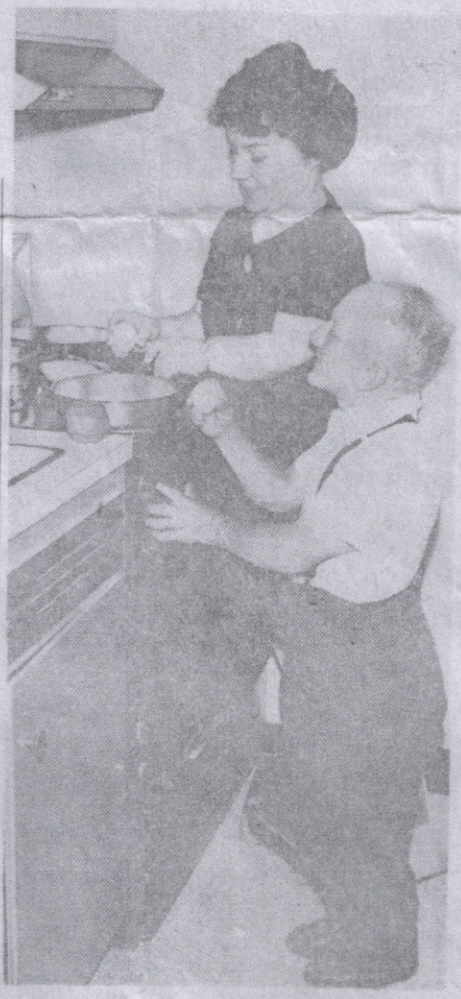
This realization prompted Billy to form the Little People of America Association in 1957. The aim of the group is to bring sensitive people out of their shells, he explained.

"I get mad when people automatically associate little people with circuses," he said. "Actually 90 per cent of them have nothing to do with entertainment."

The 750 members of the Little People of America include lawyers, doctors, barbers, secretaries, cooks, photographers and a speech therapist.

While Billy admits that little people have their little problems, he pointed out that they have their little advantages, too.

"Imagine," he said, laughing, "I can get a single room in a motel, and it's big enough for a roomy double."



COOKING gives Billy's wife a lift when she uses stool to reach top of stove.

SLEEPING presents no problem. Single bed affords room for two (Von Wald)

Seattle Times
Sunday March 8, 1963.

TALL IN POPULARITY:

S. P. C. Honors Short Co-ed

A 4-foot Seattle Pacific College senior was honored as "Co-ed of the Quarter" by the Associated Women Students today.

Frieda Groeneveld, an education major, is a dwarf. Her size is no handicap in teaching, she says, and it is obvious it has not been a drawback in her career on campus.

Miss Groeneveld was presented with a plaque and a book by Mary McKean, A. W. S. chaplain, in chapel services this morning.

Miss Groeneveld has been active with the Rally Board, Eta Pi Alpha, education group; the Homecoming committee and several banquet committees. She was the champion Homecoming-button salesman last fall.

Teaching is her lifelong ambition. She began preparing for this career while a pupil at Everett High School.

Miss Groeneveld was a cadet teacher last year, teaching first grade. She expects to become a regular first-grade teacher in the fall.

"I like it very much," she said. "The pupils are a little curious at my size at first, but not for long."

Miss Groeneveld's parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Groeneveld, reside in Everett.

MARY McKEAN, left, and FRIEDA GROENVELD

TOM HAYWARD, Pendleton, shows off specially modified Volkswagen which he drove to Portland for meeting of Northwest District, Little People of America. Most cars can be modified to accommodate people under 4-feet, 10-inches, with extentions to gas pedal, brake and clutch.

LITTLE PEOPLE of America, Northwest version, met in Portland Sunday for District 11 meeting to honor national vice president Bill Albaugh. Group of dwarfs and midgets stand from 3-feet, 11-inches to 4-feet, 10-inches tall. They met in home of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Brooks, 1039 SE 25th Ave. Albaugh is man with big cigar at right.

Louise Daly
-Anaconda, Mont.
1949

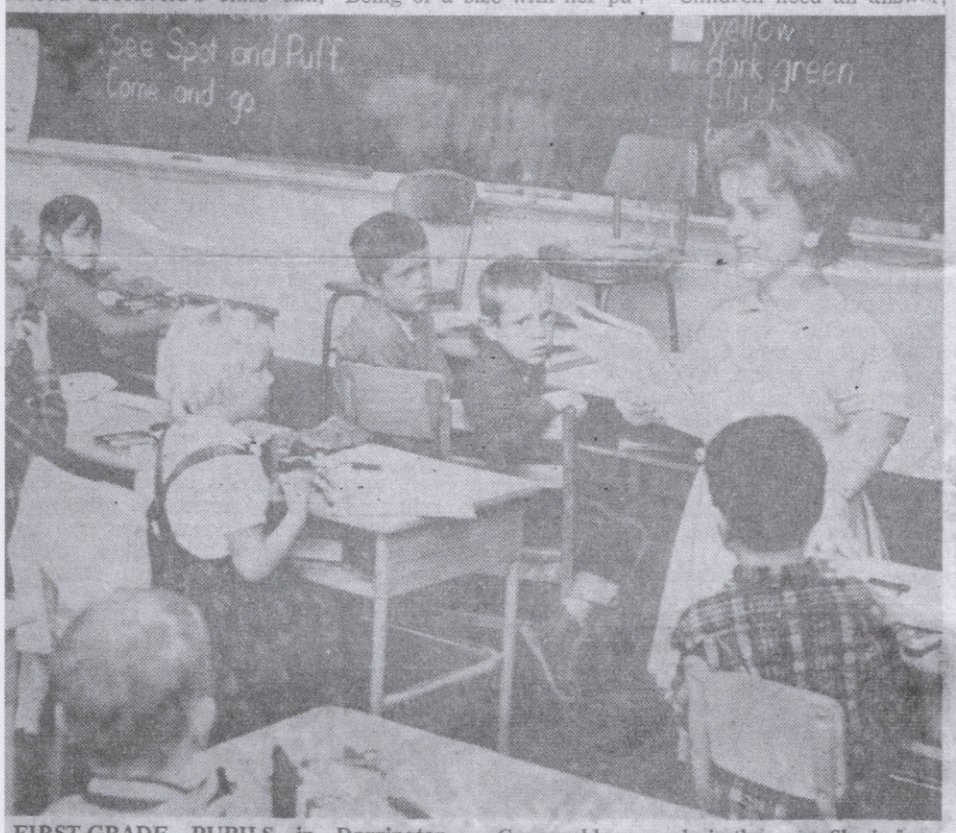
THE OREGONIAN, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1963

First Grade Pupils, Instructor Measure Same Height

DARRINGTON, Wash. (AP) —First-grade pupils in Miss Frieda Groenveld's class can look their teacher squarely in the eyes. She is 4 feet tall.

Being of a size with her pupils bothers neither Miss Groenveld nor the youngsters.

"Children need an answer," she says. "When you give it to them, that's all they need."



FIRST-GRADE PUPILS in Darrington, Wash., can look their teacher, Miss Frieda Groenveld, squarely in the eyes. She is four feet tall and says it's no handicap. (AP)

This is her first month as a teacher and Miss Groenveld admits she had the usual opening-day jitters of the new schoolma'm. One boy, clutching his mother's hand, looked the teacher in the eyes and asked: "How come you're so little?"

"I'm as big as you are," said the little teacher as the mother blushed. "Aren't we going to have fun?"

Fun is one of the nice things about being a first-grader here, but there is always order and respect. When Miss Groenveld mounts her kitchen stool — she calls it "my throne" — the class falls silent. Darrington School District officials believe they have a gem in their new teacher.

"I can really say that I've never wished that I were tall," says Miss Groenveld.

"My parents always emphasized that I would have to make my own way without depending on people feeling sorry for me."

After graduation from Seattle Pacific College she came to Darrington out of choice — she was born here, although she grew up in Everett.

Throughout the school she is known as "the little lady." Pupils from upper grades often drop by to help her with physical tasks, such as posting bulletin board material.

"The thing that matters when people look differently at you," she says, "is how you, yourself, take it.

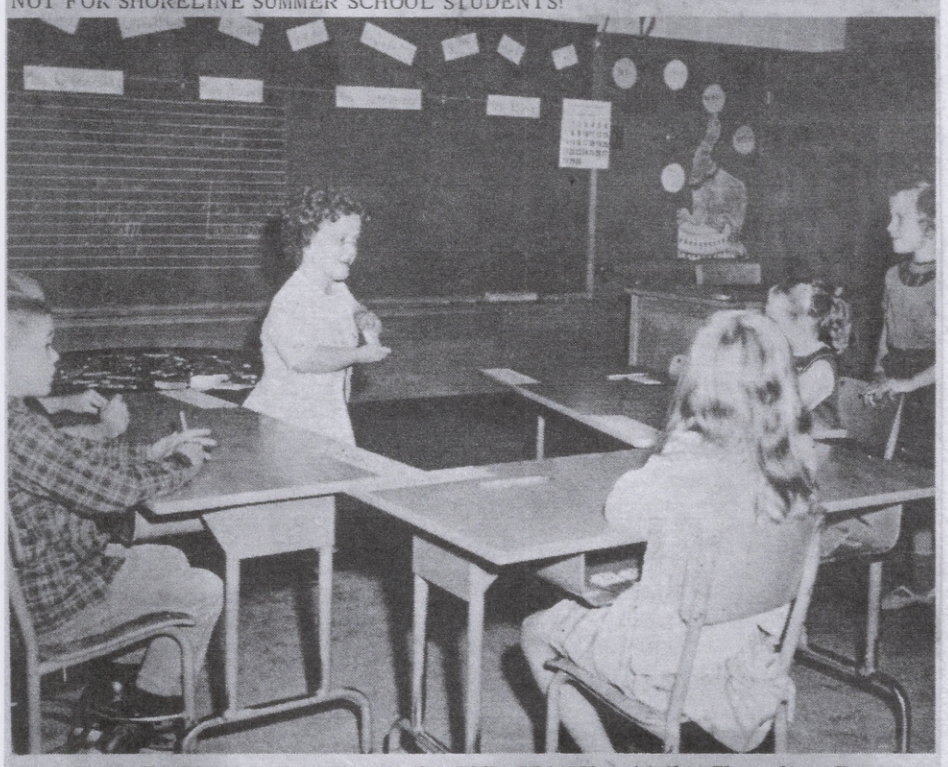
"If people are going to laugh, I'll laugh with them."

SEATTLE PACIFIC COLLEGE March 8, 1963

WHO SAID

School Is Out?

NOT FOR SHORELINE SUMMER SCHOOL STUDENTS!



SECOND GRADERS STUDY READING, MATH - At the Shoreline Summer school reading and arithmetic center in Briarcrest Elementary school Miss Frieda Groeneveld, assisting teacher, holds flash cards as her second grade pupils in arithmetic improvement class practice number combinations. Miss Groeneveld is a student at Seattle Pacific College.

AWS Honors 'Outstanding' Senior Coed

Frieda Groeneveld, a senior, was honored in this morning's chapel service as the Associated Women Student's "Coed of the Quarter."

Miss Frieda Groeneveld

Miss Groeneveld will be honored for her past work on the Homecoming program, All School Banquet, and Rally Board. She was a cadet teacher in the Shoreline District, at the Reading Center and Highland Terrace Elementary School.

Miss Vivian Larson, cadet supervisor, cited Miss Groeneveld as an outstanding student teacher. She has a lot of enthusiasm and operates beautifully in the classroom," Miss Larson said.

Minute-Sized Educator Has Love, Respect of Pupils

By MILDRED KOOP
Staff Correspondent

DARRINGTON — Proof positive that "Little People" think big and accomplish big deeds is testified to by all who know the 3-foot 11-inch "small" Darrington first grade teacher, Frieda Groeneveld.

Her devotion to her students is exemplified in their obvious eagerness to accomplish the educational goals she so efficiently presents. But then, people just naturally respond to Frieda and she has found it thus from childhood.

The petite, green eyed, blonde was born in Darrington April 29, 1941, delivered by longtime Darrington physician, Dr. B. T. Blake. Frieda has three sisters, Greta, Joann and Wilma, all normal sized.

Medically, Frieda is termed an achondroplastic dwarf, more simply, her normal growth process was slowed by a cartilage growth malfunction.

Her parents, Frieling and Johanna Groeneveld came to the Pacific Northwest prior to World War II from Emden, a town in Northeastern Germany. They lived in Darrington for a short time only and now reside on a farm near Everett.

Frieda attended Everett High School, continued her education at Seattle Pacific College, graduating in 1963 with a BA degree in Education, Language Arts as her major.

Possessed with a natural affinity for friendliness, Frieda feels she has had more than the average amount of encouragement throughout the years. She displays absolutely no shyness about her size and certainly hasn't been deterred by it, as evidenced by her numerous attributes.

She considers normal acceptance by her family helped her become equipped with normal standards and ambitions. If others can succeed, so can she and therefore she determined meeting each challenge with success.

Before Frieda accepted a teaching assignment for September, 1963, with the Darrington system, numerous questions had to be weighed and countered. It is summed up best in her own words, "You just have to show them and they're sold." So she became one of the few teachers from among the Little People.

She thoroughly enjoys small town life and only wishes a college were nearer so she could continue her education. Asked if she planned to marry, she ideally answered, "If the right man asks me."

Following a picture and story in a Seattle newspaper last year, picked up nationally, she received nearly 300 letters, many from other Little People across the country.

Her expression outside the field of education is best exemplified by her active assistant leadership of the Yo-Tan-Ta Camp Fire Girls in Darrington. She was the undisputed life of the group's recent campout at Camp Killoqua.

Hobbies needfully border on points of necessity, primarily sewing. Frieda uses a portable machine set on a low table and makes not only her clothes but her patterns as well. When Skagit Valley College offered the Bishop Sewing courses in Darrington, she enrolled and proved a very interested and inspirational student.

She often delights in the riot of expressions displayed by onlookers when she alights from her crimson Volkswagon. Driving a car was just another challenge to this mighty mite of a girl. Her father simply elevated the pedals about eight inches and Frieda drives with ease. An auto trip across the United States will someday be among her accomplishments.

Her friends are deemed her greatest asset in life and she readily agrees successes would have been impossible without them. Even the dialing of a telephone number in a booth could cause consternation, Frieda relates, were it not for a friend, old or new.

"People are most helpful, especially when I need something off the top shelf," she says. There's a problem too, getting to the bottom of things such as retrieving her laundry from the depths of the washer, an act that requires more than the average amount of agility on her part.

Four years ago Frieda became affiliated with a ten-new organization of "Little People of America." In this group of approximately 3,000 members, Frieda learned to accept herself in a more understanding light, as others see her. The earliest realization of her "difference" was pinpointed when she first viewed herself in a home movie.

Last summer, Frieda attended the Little People's convention in Phoenix, Ariz., and more recently was active in the group's conclave held early this month in Seattle.

It is her opinion these gatherings help Little People gain needed perspective to accept that which is unalterable and shift their sights to that which is, namely education, personality and the pursuit of a useful, productive life.

Past publicity has much maligned the Little People and Frieda feels a personal obligation to correct society's misconception.

Indeed, Frieda proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that Little People needn't live in a little world.

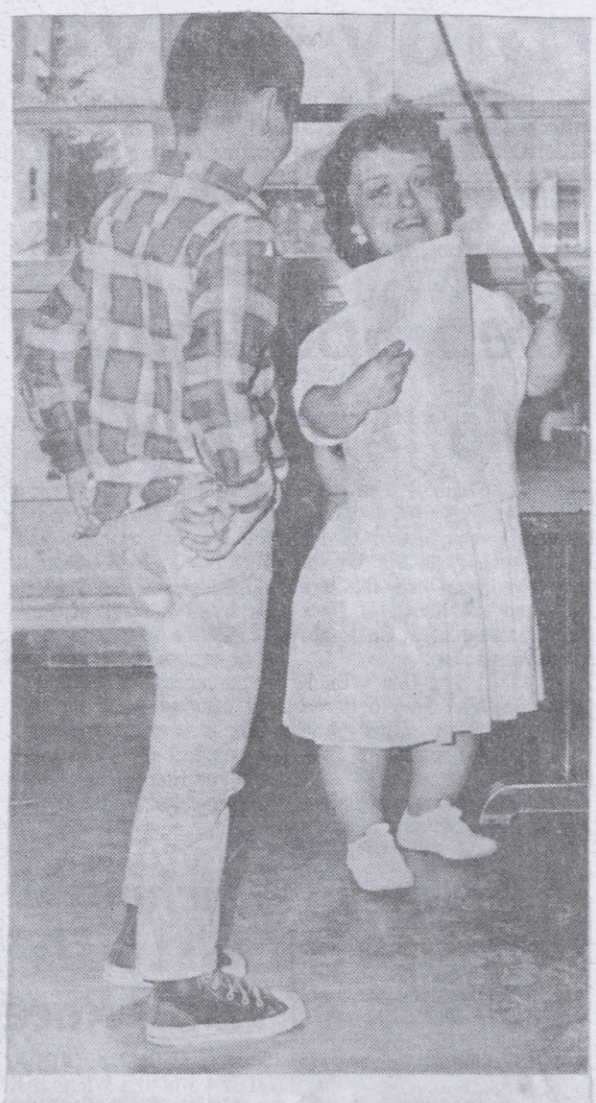
Handicapped? Not at all. Frieda is the handiwork of God.

Little People Slate Meeting

Miss Shirley Berg of Birkenfeld, who is the area chairman for district II of the Little People of America, will be presiding Sunday at a district meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wally Brooks at 1039 S.E. 25th avenue in Portland.

The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. and among matters to be discussed will be plans for the national convention to be held at Phoenix, Arizona July 19 through 23.

Meeting at Shirley Berg's - 1964
Front L-R - Steve Reed; Shirley Berg; Agnes Owens
2nd row - Wally Brooks; Ida Brooks, Emma Furlong
Tom Bradshaw



MINUTE EDUCATOR — Frieda Groeneveld, although smaller than her first grade pupil Tony McMahan, commands deep respect from her students who love their "Little People" teacher. (Photo by Mildred Koop)

PORTLAND DISTRICT

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Vol. IV, 64-36 WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN Ext 280 4 September 1964

Handicapped Teacher Cited

By JOE BERGER
Journal Staff Writer

Harold (Casey) Jones was paralyzed from the chest down after a diving accident when he was 19. That was in 1943.

Since then, he has worked as a door-to-door salesman and earned a degree in education from the University of Oregon.

The Wisconsin General Hospital has made a movie showing the courageous manner in which Jones adjusted to his handicap—a movie credited with having helped thousands of handicapped persons find a more useful life.

THE STAR of that movie is now teaching the third grade at Lake Elementary School near Eugene.

Jones was named Wednesday by the Governor's Committee for Employment of the Handicapped as the state's handicapped employe of the year.

The announcement was made during the committee's 20th annual luncheon at the Sheraton Motor Inn, sonsored by the East Side Commercial Club.

The committee named the manager of a Eugene radio station which employs three seriously handicapped persons in key positions as its employer of the year.

Marvin R. Steffins Jr., president of Willamette Family Stations and Radio KWFS also received a citation from the American Legion for his use of handicapped persons.

JACK LaFOUNTAIN of Portland, who lost both legs as a result of injuries received in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II, was named the outstanding handicapped employe of Multnomah County. LaFountain works for Merchants Dependable Delivery Service.

The Multnomah County Committee also cited Jeanne Schulke of Tektronix, Inc., Wallace E. Brooks of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Rita Holcomb of Goodwill Industries as outstanding handicapped employes.

The governor's committee presented certificates of appreciation to Salem radio station KAPT, KGAY, KROW and KSLM for their efforts in furthering the committee's work. J. R. Smurthwaite Jr., Beaverton, a long-time member of the committee, also received an award.

SAM MALLICOAT, director of the state's Department of Planning and Development, represented Gov. Mark Hatfield at the luncheon. Mallicoat said that employment of the handicapped is "sound business" because "these people meet and often exceed standards of production and attendance" and have a lower turn-over rate.

The awards luncheon is held each year during national Employ the Handicapped Week.

WALLACE E BROOKS, Chief of the Engineering Division Service Branch, has been selected by Colonel TALBOTT to be the Portland District's nominee for the most outstanding handicapped employee in the Portland area.

The person who is chosen will be honored as "Citizen of the Week" during the first full week in October.

"WALLY" has been outstanding both in the performance of his job and in his outside activities. In November 1963 he received a Quality Step Pay Increase and an Outstanding Performance Rating for the period from November 1962 through October 1963.

Before then he had been presented a Sustained Superior Performance Award and another Outstanding Performance Rating in addition to several letters of commendation.

Last November WALLY was commended by the Hollywood Theater for his efforts, interest and assistance in arranging special showings of the cinerama series for Corps of Engineers employees and also for charitable groups.

In June he attended the District Convention held in Spokane for the Portland, Oregon chapter of the Indoor Sports Club of which he is president. During the convention he acted as the parliamentarian and was elected 3rd Vice President for the coming year.

Among his numerous activities, WALLY is a member of the Portland Handicapped Club. In 1961 he was elected a director, in 1962 vice-president and in 1963 president.

Ellenor Myers
-Molallia, Oregon

Shirley Berg; Vivian Gant;
Frieda Groeneveld; Penny Pemble

1965

May 15-16 - Portland

National - Gloucester, N.J.

August 13-15 - Portland

1966

April 30 - May 1 - Seattle

National - Austin, Texas

October 1 - Portland

LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA—In convention in Edmonds members of the LPA pose in front of the home of Mrs. Muriel Gant. Shown (left to right, front row): Vivian Gant, Edmonds, and Tom Hayward, Pendleton, Ore.; (second row, Larry Carr, Hillsborough, Ore.; Emma Furlong, Rochester, Wash.; Penny Pemble, Seattle; Shirley Beerg, district chairman, Berkenfeld, Ore.; Frieda Groeneveld, Darrington, Wash., and Buck Huizenga, Pendleton, Ore. "Edmonds Tribune Review" April 7, '65

Little People Hold Meet in Lynnwood

Forty members of the Little People of America—an organization whose members must be under 4 feet 10 inches tall—met Saturday in Lynnwood.

They met at the home of Mrs. Muriel Grant, mother of a "little person"—Vivian, who is only 40 inches tall.

Willy Albaugh, vice president of the national organization of Little People, said finding employment for Little People is their chief problem. Albaugh said, "People tend to judge us on our height rather than our abilities."

Many Little People, though, have found their niche in life. Frieda Groeneveld, formerly of Seattle, is now a teacher in Darrington, Wash. Miss Groeneveld said that her height seems to be an advantage in teaching second-graders. "I can look at them eye-to-eye, and children accept me."

Among problems which are common to the Little People are clothes, transportation and telephone facilities. "Not only is it hard to find clothes to fit, but sometimes we have to search for a long time to find a telephone that we can reach," said one of the Little People. Almost invariably too, bus steps are too high for the Little People.

Cars also must be fitted with many extras, such as extended pedals and custom-built seats.

Most midgets train themselves to see the funny side of life, and this was exhibited Saturday when three of the Little People pushed Miss Groeneveld's small automobile over the curb while she was talking to reporters. Great hilarity and joking followed, and a light-hearted air seemed to surround the Little People all during their meeting with reporters.

District 11 of the Little People of America, which is the group that met in Lynnwood, is making an effort to organize a Seattle chapter of their organization.

Members of the group which met here started returning to their homes Sunday, after having enjoyed a dinner-dance Saturday night.

EA

EGONIAN, Pendleton, Ore., Wednesday, Mar. 31, 1965

TOM HAYWARD, who is employed at C & J Motor Parts, is pictured (center with glasses) at a Little People of America meeting he recently attended at Portland.

Little People

the work of a normal person in the educational field.

"We have accountants, bookkeepers, artists, clerks, secretaries, lawyers, watchmakers, students, draftsmen, TV repairmen, barbers, salesmen, builders, civil service employes, food store operators, engineers and bankers."

Anyone interested in joining or wanting information may write Shirley Berg, PO Box 6, Birkenfield, Ore.

THE OREGONIAN, THURSDA , MARCH 18, 1965

tle Man's Club: Overcome Big Problems

Wil- thinks they should form a
big Portland chapter of the nation-
peo- al association, Little People of
ame America, Inc.
ian's Albaugh, who lives in Cam-
on's den, N.J., is in Portland to
igh campaign for a new club for the non-profit organization whose membership is limited to persons 4 feet 10 inches in height — and under.

"Our aim," he said, "is to make life a little more bearable for the little people. We're deadly serious about our problems — which are deadly serious to us."

Members Number 2,000

He said the national organization, formed six years ago, is devoting its energies primarily toward the elimination of job discrimination.

"We're trying to get away from the 'show business' stereotype," Albaugh, vice president of the association, said. "There is no business or professional area which should be closed to anyone because of size."

He said there are about 2,000 active members in Little People of America and that 90 per cent of them are in the professions.

All small Portlanders interested in forming a local chapter of the club are asked to call Albaugh at the Travelodge Portland, 949 E. Burnside St.

WILLIAM ALBAUGH, vice president of Little People of America, Inc., stands a manly 4 feet 6 inches beside pretty Vada Robertson who bends her 5 feet 6 inches a bit to hear about Albaugh's plans for Portlanders 4 feet 10 inches and under who may form new club.

Problems of Little People Can Be Solved Through Education

A great big boost for education came from a very little person in Medford Friday.

Bill Albaugh of Camden, N. J., vice president of "Little People of America, Inc.," visiting this area as "Little Squirt," living trade mark of the soft drink company, declared: "Education holds the answers to all the problems of little people. I would say to all parents of little persons, give them education. They must have it from the shoulders up if they don't have it from the knees down."

Albaugh, a pituitary midget now in his 30s, means it when he says, "A little person can become anything if he sets his mind to it.— anything but big."

Hold Positions

He has held a variety of positions since graduating from high school and while in school lettered in football and basketball by being business manager for the teams. He also sang in the Glee Club.

With all of these activities to his credit, however, he described high school as his most trying period. Everything was fine until his buddies became interested in the girls. Then they preferred dates to "Little Billy."

This problem was solved "very satisfactorily" in later years when "Little Billy" met his present wife at a New Year's eve party for "Little People" in Florida. That's one big reason he is so enthusiastic about the organization.

Alleviates Social Problems

"It alleviates the social problems," Albaugh ecplained, adding that his parents, brothers and sisters were all people of normal size.

"I've been a little squirt all my life," he continued with an obvious gleam in his eye as he slipped a bit of advertising for his company into the conversation. "I've just been paid for it since 1949."

He took his training for a position with the bottling company in Buffalo, N. Y., and learned the business "from the ground up," he stated, with no intention of punning.

He has "been with drinks" a great portion of his life, he volunteered, recalling that his first job was a bartender. He learned "which drinks give the biggest headaches." He also worked as a "bookie" for a race horse parlor in New York, was mascot for the Buffalo Bills, professional football team, for two seasons, and worked as page boy in hotels in New York and Florida before joining the bottling company.

Grew Up In Ohio

He grew up in the town of Mingo Junction, Ohio, and believes there are many advantages to growing up in a small town "where everyone knows you and accepts you for what you are regardless of size, color, religion or ancestry."

There are 30 types of little people, Albough said. He was of normal size at birth, and his wife, "a real working gal," weighed 11 pounds, he said. When he reached the age of five, it became obvious that he was a pituitary midget.

But, fortunately, he was treated just like other members of the family. He was neither shunned nor sheltered because he was different. He is four feet, six inches tall and his wife is three feet, 11 inches. They like to be treated as people, not playthings or entertainers, to be

TWO PROMOTIONS—In Medford officially as "Little Squirt" of the Squirt Bottling Company, Bill Albaugh, vice president of Little People of America, Inc., took time to acquaint the public with the organization which provides fellowship, interchange of ideas and solutions to the unique problems of little persons. He is shown here handing a brochure to Thomas E. Williams, sales-manager for Coca Cola Bottling Company.

members are in the professions. There are approximately 2,000 active members in the United States. One member is from Germany, one from England and two from Canada.

Failed To Develop

The president, Lee Kitchens, a feature story of whose life recently appeared in the Mail Tribune, as an achondroplastic midget, Albaugh said. In his case the cartilage failed to develop normally, dwarfing his bones.

All types will gather at Gloucester City, N. J., July 20-24 for the national convention of Little People of America, Inc.

Albaugh said he was extending an invitation to all Little People and to their parents for whom there is an auxiliary in the organization which had its first meeting in 1955.

The organization has an adoption chairman who gets a listing of all midgets placed in orphanages. The list is published in hopes that the children will be adopted by Little People.

Asked if midgets, who find themselves the parents of normal - sized children, have a serious problem, Albaugh replied, "it happens often and in their cases, respect for parents is vitally important. I have never seen more respect accorded a father than by a six - foot son whose father came just to his knee. This could be a real problem," he admitted, agreeing that the woodshed style of discipline wouldn't be possible.

"A small person can live in two worlds — a small world and a normal world," Albaugh concluded, reading from a Little People of America brochure.

"A person who finds happiness in both worlds has nothing to lose to society or himself. But the person who hides in one of the two worlds must always live with the fear of evasion of contact with the other world."

"Our motto is 'Think Big'!"

Seattle Times April 5th, 1965

BILLY ALBAUGH, LITTLE MAN WITH BIG MISSION

Soft-Drink Symbol Hails Edmonds' Midget Parley

"There are many, many little people who are just not aware of our organization and how it can help them," Billy Albaugh, vice president of the Little People of America, Inc., said today.

Albaugh, of Camden, N. J., is in Seattle in connection with his career as the symbol of advertising for a softdrink. But he called a press conference to talk about the Little People of America, an organization to which he has devoted increasing time since 1960.

ABOUT 40 dwarfs and midgets attended a district meeting of the organization Saturday at Edmonds, and Albaugh said he hoped such activities would be expanded here.

"We try to encourage little people to develop outgoing personalities," Albaugh, who is 4 feet, 6 inches tall and 37 years old, said. "If they don't, then they're going to have problems."

Albaugh said an aim of the club is to persuade parents of midgets or dwarfs not to be overprotective.

"Some parents might take their little children out of school, and put them in a school for the handicapped," he said. "If the children weren't handicapped before, this kind of treatment will make them so."

Abaugh said the organization's monthly news letter lists job opportunities and provides a forum for an exchange of ideas on such things as finding clothes for tiny frames.

Albaugh urged little people interested in the group to contact the state coordinator, Mrs. Marie Frieda Groeneveld, Box 217, Darrington, Snohomish County.

SHIRLEY BERG, district chairman of the Little People of America, gets her coffee poured by waitress Gertrude Adams at the Anchorage Restaurant Saturday night. About 35 little people from five western states and Canada toured Jantzen Beach and the Lloyd Center before dining at the Anchorage.

Midget in Everett

Asks Respect for Ability

By JOYCE DeSOTO
Staff Writer

A "little person" visited Everett today.

He's Bill Albaugh, who at 37 is a "taller than most" midgets at 4 feet 3 inches. He's also national vice president of "Little People of America Inc.," whose slogan is "Think Big."

"All we want is to be judged by normal people from the shoulders up rather than from the knees down," remarked Albaugh.

"Since we organized nationally 10 years ago — we have 5,500 members — we've gained a lot of respect. We've been taken out of the freak category and have jobs outside the circus," the Everett visitor explained.

Their organization includes lawyers, salesmen, accountants, bookkeepers and teachers — all "little people."

"As recently as 50 or 60 years ago parents of dwarfs were ashamed," said Albaugh. "If a traveling man with the circus came along the parents were glad to get rid of their child. Actually it started in Europe when a dwarf was considered a bad omen.

BILL ALBAUGH

"Medically we're classified as dwarfs. There mainly are two kinds, those with a glandular malfunction, such as I. and those whose head and trunk are normal but have short arms and legs. The second type results from the long bones knitting too quickly.

Most midgets have normal-sized children, as the size is not hereditary in glandular dwarfism, Albaugh said. In the other form if two of the same type marry there is a 50-50 chance of dwarfism.

One of the functions of the national organization is to give the "little people" the opportunity to meet with others their size. Also there is much adopting of dwarf children by members of the organization.

"My parents were normal sized," said Albaugh, "and since I was brought up in a small town I went around with the other guys until high school and they began to date.

"Another thing, litttle people grow slower than normal people, about an inch a year to a normal child's inch a month. Usually we have a spurt of growth later. I grew more when I was 30."

Albaugh is a fairly large "Little person." The smallest member of their organization is 24 inches tall.

"We have problems but not in our homes, although most of us live in normal-sized houses. Remember we're about the size of a normal child," explained Albaugh. "It's with bus steps, mailboxes and reaching elevator buttons that we have problems.

"We are not like other minorities. We know we live in a big world and have to accept it. All we want is to be respected for what we can do. Too many people unknowingly talk to us like we are children. Long ago we didn't have the education — not because we didn't want it but because it was thought unnecessary.

"This is where our organization has helped by informing people. We also have a group for parents of little people. If a parent of a little person takes it too seriously it affects the child."

There is a group called "Little Littles" for teen-agers too. Teenage, says Albaugh is the most difficult for the little people.

Albaugh comes from Camden, N.J., and is "Little Squirt" of softdrink fame. He visited the B&M stores in Everett today. Before Albaugh worked as a bartender, page boy and was "Buffalo Bill" for a football team.

Another little person "and wonderful to talk with" said Albaugh is Frieda Groeneveld, a second grade teacher in Darrington. She may be contacted by anyone interested in the "Little People" organization. Plans call for organizing a Seattle chapter. The Lynnwood chapter held a dinner-dance April 5.

District Meeting - Wally Brooks' - 1966

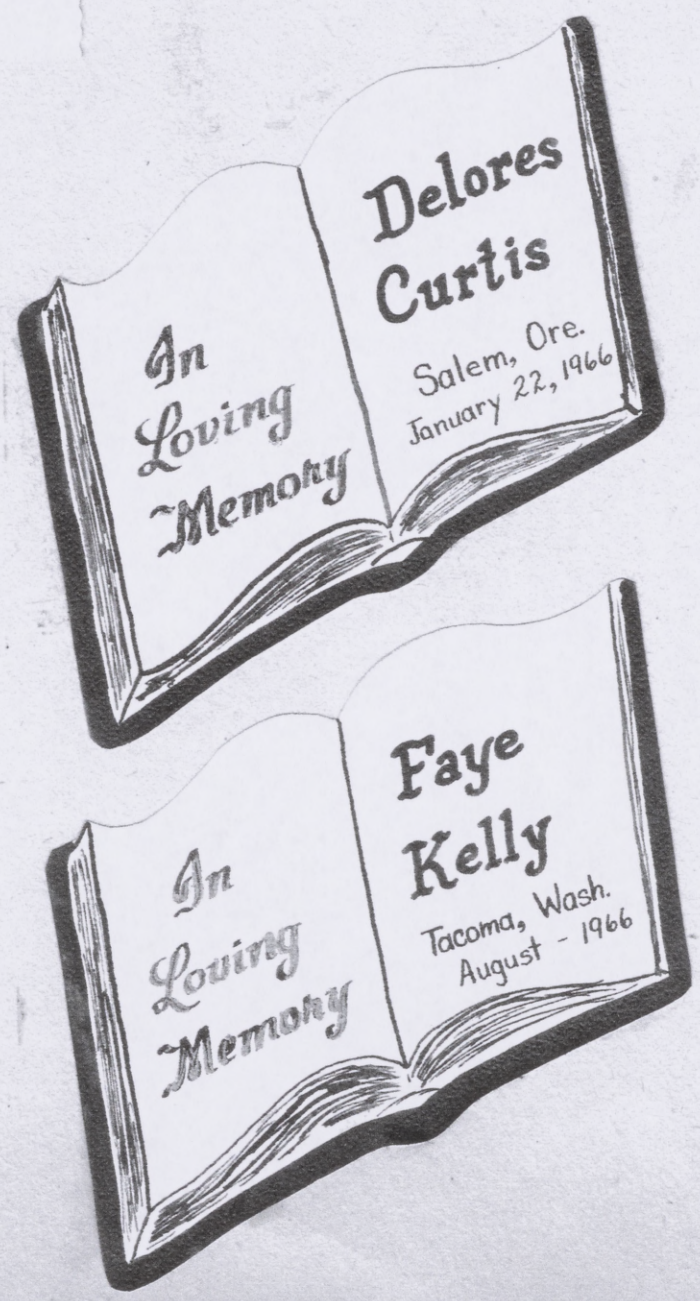
Like
To
Meet
New
People ?

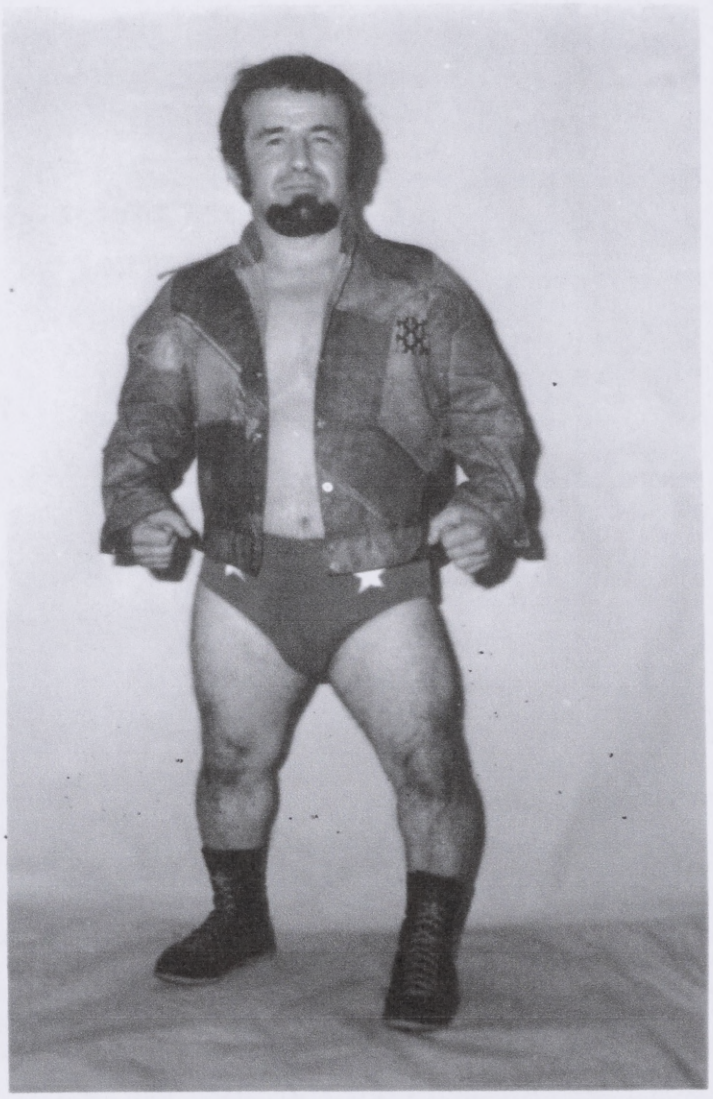
Merry Christmas

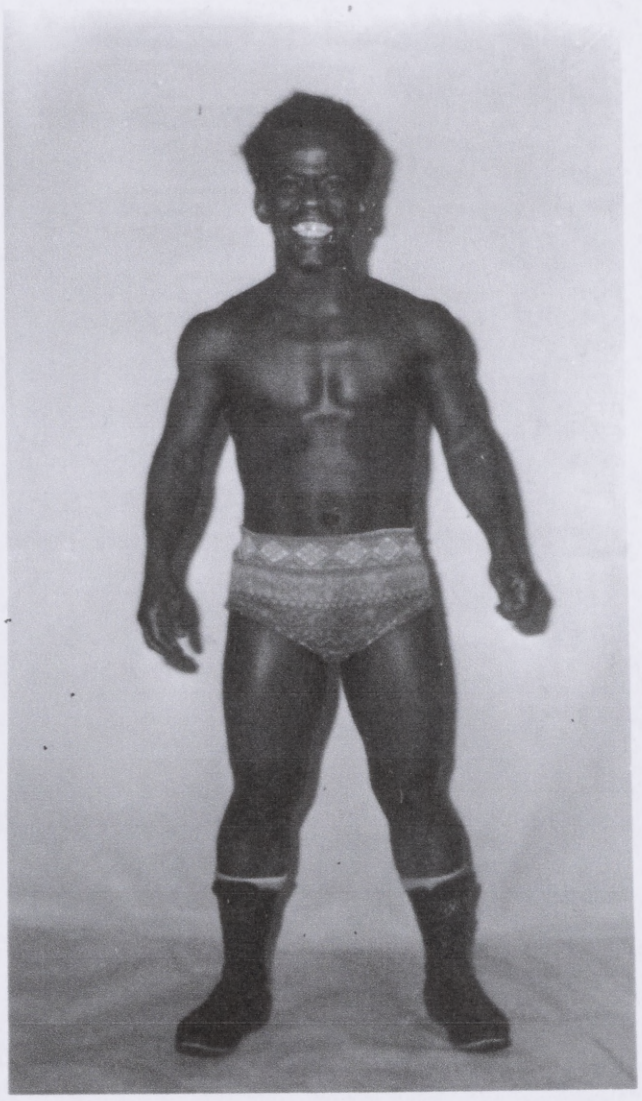
Love,
Allen, Allie & Jess

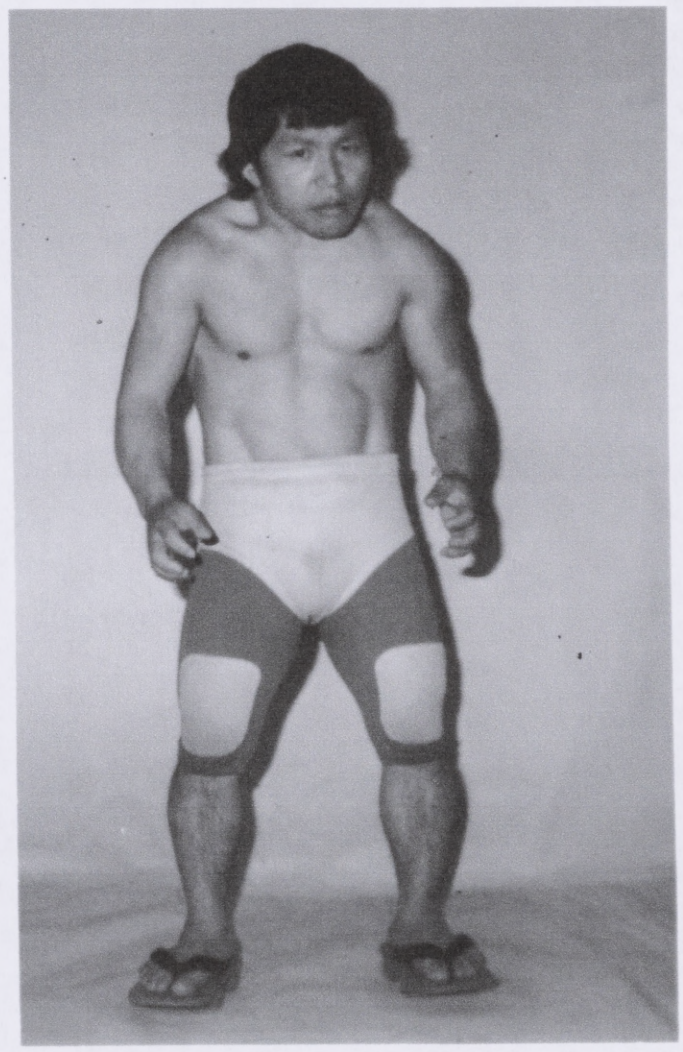
Tom Bradshaw

MAY SNOW—Snow pelted down on Darrington for four hours Tuesday—the first time oldsters can recall it snowing in town in the month of May. At Grade Creek, 18 miles from Darrintgon, snow got up to six inches deep and all logging operations in the area were closed down for the day. Here school teacher Frieda Groeneveld stands beside her car which shows the result of the snowfall in the community. (Photo by Mildred Koop)









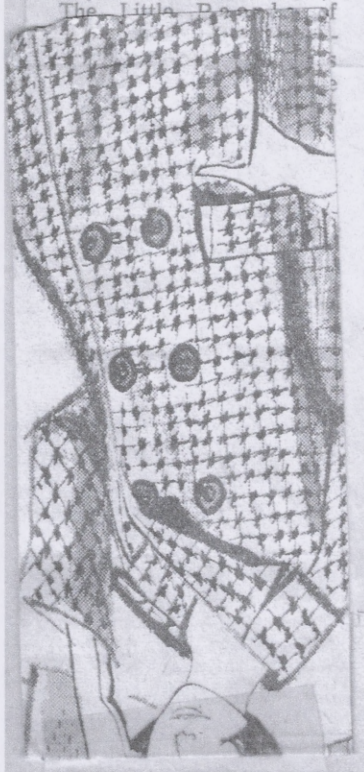
26 The Seattle Times Sunday, April 4, 1965

'Little People' Face Problem With Aid of Humor, Courage

Richard McLeod, 16, of Puyallup, behind the wheel, tested out the equipment in the foreign-made small automobile of Shirley Berg, right, of Birkenfeld, Ore., district chairman of District II of the Little People of America. Interested onlookers were Jerry Maren of Los Angeles and Frieda Groeneveld, Darrington.

By MARJORIE JONES

The Little People of



for someone smaller than I am, and when I find them I tower over them and say, "How are you down there?'"

MAREN CALLS himself a "living trademark." Now semi-retired, he was the Buster Brown of children's-shoe fame.

Mary Undi, 16, a pupil at Meadowdale High School, laughed at what is for her a major problem at school —getting a drink of water.

"For the life of me I can't reach a fountain," she said.

Mrs. Henry Street, a Spokane newspaper employe, is good-humored about her "small" gripe.

"We've driven 40 miles to get to a telephone we could reach," she said.

Mrs. Street's husband also is a "little person, or L. P.

Albaugh is another living trademark. He is "Little Squirt" of soft-drink advertising. He is 4 feet 10 inches and his wife is 3-11.

HE URGED parents of dwarfs or midgets to "get their children out in the mainstream."

"The best thing you can do for a dwarf or a midget child is to push him out of the nest and make him stand on his own feet to face being noticed all his life, because he will be," he said.

Oldest L. P. at the meeting was Mrs. Emma Furlong of Rochester, Thurston County and the youngest, Darrell Montzingo, 8, of Seattle. Efforts are being made to establish a Seattle Chapter of L. P. A.

Vernonia Eagle
THURSDAY, FEB. 3, 1966 7

Little People Meet Held at Centralia

BIRKENFELD — Shirley Berg went to Centralia Saturday to attend a District 11 Little People of America get-together at the home of one of the members, Agnes Owen. Fifteen little people were in attendance from Oregon and Washington. This was the first time the group met in this city. District 11 was pleasantly surprised last week when word came to them that Gill Albaugh, the national vice president of the Little People of America, from Camden, New Jersey, had arrived in Portland on behalf of the Squirt Bottling Co., and would be there for about ten days. His visit here was timed well, as he was then able to meet with the group who had previously scheduled the January meeting in Centralia. Bill made several TV appearances this past week. Perhaps some of the readers of this column saw and heard him.

'Little People' To Have a Banquet

VIVIAN GANT | PENNY PEMBLE | FRIEDA GROENEVELD | JO LYNN VERMILLION

District 11, The Little People of America, will hold a banquet at 6:30 o'clock April 30 in the Barb Restaurant, 19510 Highway 99.

The event will follow an open house at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Vermillion, 1611 Third Av. W.

Members helping her promote the banquet are Vivian Gant, Edmonds; Penny Pemble, Seattle; Frieda Groeneveld, Darrington, Snohomish County, and Mrs. Vermillion's daughter, Jo Lynn.

Mrs. Veermillion, who is handling banquet information, said the 12-district organization was founded in 1955 by Billy Barty, movie and television performer.

The Seattle-area chapter, which has about 50 active members and 150 persons on the mailing list, is six years old.

The organization, limited to persons no taller than 4 feet 10 inches, was formed to "provide fellowship, exchange ideas and seek solutions to the problems of a little person," Mrs. Vermillion said.

Seattle Times 4-17-66

Get-to-gether —

Hood Canal

Host

Richard McLeod

August 6-7, 1966

'Little People' Make Best Of 2 Worlds

By JACK WILKINS
News Tribune Staff Writer

LILLIWAUP—A slogan of The Little People of America is "Think big."

They also smile big and play big, especially when they get together, as about two dozen of them are doing this weekend on a Hood Canal beach, five miles north of here.

Who are the little people?

Most are dwarfs but some are midgets, though the general term "little people" is more polite because of the superstitions and misinformation surrounding the more precise terms.

The main difference between little people and those they term "the tall people" is, of course, in size. If you want to get into LPA (which might be a good idea; it seems like a fun thing) you better shrink a little, unless you are less than 4-feet, 10-inches tall.

Another difference is that little people are noted for being good humored.

If, by chance, you qualify for LPA but have not heard of the association or have been reluctant to join it, the Northwestern District of the association is eager to get in touch with you, according to Frieda Groeneveld, who this fall will be teaching kindergarten in the Franklin Pierce School District.

She is among the little people who gathered Saturday at the Hood Canal summer camp of Mr. and Mrs. Robert McLeod, of Puyallup, one of whose children is a LPA member. They are having a two-day ball.

Miss Groeneveld has been teaching school in Darrington. One of her friends recounted this incident between her and a pupil:

Pupil: "Mommy, why is she so small?"

Miss Groeneveld: "I'm just as big as you are, and aren't we going to have fun together!"

This attitude carries over into her LPA activities.

"Let's face it," she said, "the main reason more little people don't join LPA is that they are apprehensive. Last month we had a national convention in Texas. For some of us it was a shock to see ourselves as others see us. But this feeling was replaced with a wonderful, social feeling—a mutual feeling. We all have a great many friends among the tall people — but when you meet someone eye-to-eye, it's different."

The great number of national convention delegates who have achieved prominence was a great morale booster, she said. The president, who is chief of the engineering staff of a large electronics corporation, arrived in his own plane. She met outstanding educators, some with a doctor of philosophy degree.

She feels that little people have a dual responsibility — to other little people, and to the tall people who form the majority of society.

"You have to live in both worlds, creatively," she said.

One of the things she does in the world of the tall people is work with the physically handicapped and the mentally retarded.

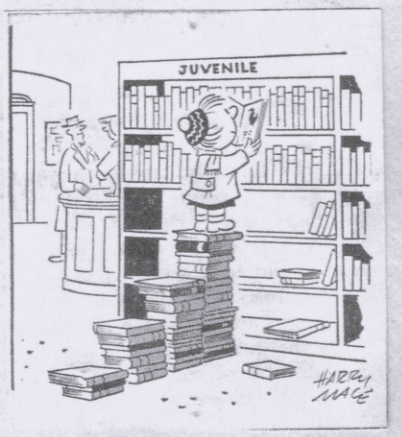
THINKING BIG

Aug 7. 1966

'Little People' Make Best of Two Worlds

TEACHER'S CHOICE—Frieda Groeneveld, of Darrington, who will teach kindergarten this fall in the Franklin Pierce School District, reaches for a piece of chicken at a picnic of The Little People of America, on Hood Canal near Lilliwaup.—News Tribune staff photo.

FAST RETURN—Jo Lynn Vermillion, of Seattle, a member of The Little People of America, fields a fast "flying saucer" on the beach during a get-together of little people from all over the Northwest. —News Tribune staff photo.



TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE AND SUNDAY LEDGER

District Meeting

Seattle Post-Intelligencer
Sun., April 17, 1966 Sec. 9

THEY'RE STARTING THE CALLS to six states for the second annual banquet of the Little People of America, to be held here April 30. From left are Frieda Groeneveld, Penny Pemble, Jo Lynn Vermillion, and Vivian Gant. The organization, now nationwide and in its 11th year, helps provide fellowship and solve other problems peculiar to people no taller than 4 feet 10 inches. The banquet, at 6:30 p.m. in The Barb Restaurant, Lynnwood, is open to friends of members.

—*Post-Intelligencer Photo by Bob Miller.*

Lynnwood, Washington

'Little People' Help Each Other Enter Big World

No Hidden Life

By JOYCE DeSOTO
Staff Writer

The "little person" of today doesn't need to be hidden in a back room or displayed for entertainment.

They want to rid themselves of the P. T. Barnum concept, said Bill Alexander, one of the little people who met in Lynnwood Saturday at the Barb Restaurant.

"There's never anything easy about being a minority—especially one with a visible difference. Scientific genius, too, is a minority but doesn't show in the same way we do," he said.

The "little person" is learning his own worth. So is the world.

Little people teach school. They work in aircraft plants, become lawyers and enter any profession they choose. They drive cars and rear families, most often of normal-sized people.

And they have founded an organization just as any other group of persons with a common interest.

Saturday night was the organization's district meeting—District 11 of the Little People of America, Inc.

They dine. They danced. They entertained and were entertained.

A Western Sun photographer and reporter joined them for what they called "the time of our lives. They may be little when you stand next to them but that's all."

The "little people" realize they live in a big world and it's not going to change. But it doesn't stop them from thinking big. In fact, "Think Big" is the organization's national motto.

As Alexander, district director of the Little People and a speech therapist in Everett schools until he moved to Goldendale, said: "We want to make little people more independent."

He asked the 14 members who were present with their families—normal sized persons—for ideas about making life easier.

He explained that he drives a regular-sized car—with brake and gas pedals elevated—and has a mobile home with an eight-inch false floor so he and his wife can reach things.

Most little people are about three feet tall although the smallest national member is only 24 inches tall. Medically, most little people are classified as dwarfs—not midgets. A dwarf's legs and arms have not grown to match their bodies. Clothes are a problem. Sleeves, hemlines and trouser legs need altering. Biggest frustrations, however, come when a "little person" needs to call from a telephone pay booth and can't reach the coinbox—or wants to climb a bus step.

Until formation of the Little People of America with its 12 districts and a membership of near 6,000, parents of little people often did much unconscious harm. They didn't allow their children to attend school in order to protect them from the world.

However, a Darrington little person, Freida Groeneveld, not only was graduated from Seattle Pacific College, but now teaches school.

At Saturday night's party, she and two others sang "It Is No Secret What God Can Do" in such harmony that there wasn't a dry eye in the audience.

Another little person, 12-year-old Jo Lynn Vermillion of Seattle, pert with a white bow on her hair, played "No Man Is An Island" on the flute.

A good deal of the little people's thoughts are filled with helping others like themselves. Many had never seen another little person until the organization of LPA in 1953.

As one member wrote for their brochure, "A small person can live in two worlds—a small world and a normal world. A person who finds happiness in both worlds has nothing to lose to society or himself. But a person who hides in one of the two worlds must always live with the fear of evasion or contact with the other world. For this person, there is no real truth—not even to himself."

LONGVIEW &

April 26, 1966

Reporter Harriet Hansen was treated to a cup of coffee this week when she and Miss Shirley Berg of Birkenfeld, Ore. (right) were invited to view the lowered appliances and sink in the kitchen of Mrs. Thomas Barta, 3226 Washington Way, Longview. It's no task for 3 foot 9 Mrs. Barta to prepare meals on this built-in range top or to use the oven which is set at her eye level.

Little People Create Own Social Life

By HARRIET HANSEN

When one of the smallest minority groups in the country meets in Seattle for a regional convention Saturday and Sunday, Miss Shirley Berg of the Clatskanie "suburb", Birkenfeld, will preside.

The minority association is the "Little People of America Inc.," persons under 4 feet 10 inches tall. Delegates are expected from all of District 11 which comprises Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Alaska.

Miss Berg has been District 11 chairman for three years but does not plan to seek re-election this year. She also has taken part in five of the "little people's" national conventions and is receiving material now about this year's gathering planned for Austin, Texas from July 19 to 23.

The Seattle convention will include a banquet on Saturday followed by an election of officers, dance and entertainment. On Sunday, the group will attend an open house at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Vermillion.

Research - conscious America has taken so few looks at the little people that no one knows for sure just how many there are. Nor, for that matter, is anyone sure that 4 feet 10 inches is the right place to distinguish between little and big people, Miss Berg said. The limit was set arbitrarily, just as was the estimate that some 5,000 to 7,000 Americans fall into the "little" category.

MEMBERS SOUGHT

In this area, Miss Berg has been alerted there may be five or six dwarfs but none are active in the Little People of America organization—a situation the district chairman is anxious to change. Mrs. Thomas Barta recently was contacted and her built-to-small-size kitchen appliances and sink are a real talking point. However, most homes of dwarfs have normal-size furnishings.

"Contrary to popular belief, little people don't saw the legs off everything," Miss Berg said with a grin. Built-in counter tops may be lowered as in Mrs. Barta's home, 3326 Washnigton Way, but furniture rarely is of other than regular dimensions.

From information supplied by Miss Berg I gathered that the medical profession knows little about these people. Generally, it has classified three types of dwarfs—the pituitary, the cretin and the achondroplastic.

Both 4-foot-2 Miss Berg and 3-foot-9 Mrs. Barta belong to the latter category. Incidentally, the parents, brothers and sisters of both these women are of "normal" height. In fact, Miss Berg's brothers tower six feet and 6 feet 4 inches. Therefore, both have grown up with no concessions made for their tiny stature.

The pituitary dwarf — commonly referred to as a midget—is thought to result from malfunction of the pituitary gland. They usually look like smaller copies of normal-size people and almost always are normal mentally. The most famous midget was Charles S. Stratton, P. T. Barnum's General Tom Thumb.

The cretin dwarf occurs when a child's thyroid gland does not produce enough of its hormone for normal growth. Cretinism can be corrected by thyroid feeding begun when the child is very young.

The achondroplastic dwarf may result from some abnormality of the endocrine glands. This type has short legs, a large head and normal-size body. Achondroplasia can be inherited and this is the dwarf described in Norse mythology.

On the other hand, many doctors feel dwarfs have no abnormality in glands, claiming the problem is in formation of bones instead.

Staff Photos by Bob Killien

Karen Bartolotti Hosts Little People Meet In Newberg

by Bob McCain

"Probably one of the least known minority groups in the country," said Ebony magazine, nation-wide negro publication, in a recent issue, "is the 'Little People of America'."

The little people, as you may have already guessed, are those who do not attain full growth and can never hope to be more than three or four feet tall, even as adults. There are hundreds, and even perhaps thousands of them, leading perfectly normal lives, throughout the country.

Ebony mag gave the little people, who have formed a nation-wide organization called "Little People of America" a seven page spread in the October, 1965, issue when a three foot tall, 26-year-old Philadelphia colored man attended the group's annual convention in Gloucester City, N. J. and their camera's followed him around the convention as well as his day to day routine on the job in the city of Brotherly Love.

And they found, as we did recently, that the little people, even though they may never hope to attain full height, do lead perfectly normal lives, marrying, raising families and holding down ordinary jobs.

Meeting Held Here

Mr. and Mrs. Sammy Bartolotti's eight-year-old daughter is a new member of the "Little People of America" and the local family hosted the Pacific Northwest group at their new home on Chehalem Drive recently, for the March 11 meeting.

Attending were members from the Western Oregon district and it was obvious that oldsters and youngsters alike were having a ball.

Miss Shirley Berg, Birkenfeld, Ore., chairman of the group who stands somewhere between three and four feet and appeared to be in her early twenties, said that there are 58 members in district 11, and this is counting only the little people, not parents, spouses, sons or daughters who quite often attend the meets and participate in group activities.

Wally Brooks, fortyish treasurer of the organization, who is about the same height as Miss Berg, said that he has worked for the Army Engineers in the Pittock Block in Portland for the past 24 years and that his

10c Per Copy NEWBERG GRAPHIC, THURS., MARCH 31, 1966, SEC. 1

Little People Meet At Bartolotti's

MR. AND MRS. SAMMY BARTOLOTTI hosted the Oregon district "Little People of America" meeting at their new home on Chehalem Drive last Saturday. Their daughter, Karen, who will never attain full height, is a member of the six-year-old international organization. A few of the young and old little people attending were (l. to r.) Karen Bartolotti, age 8; Steven Reed, age 15, Lincoln City; Leonard Lingle, age 8, Hillsboro and Eleanor Myers, age 8, Molalla. Behind Eleanor is Shirley Berg, Birkenfeld, Ore., who coyly declined to give her age. Mrs. Bartolotti, only non-member of the group pictured is at left.

Pages 1 to 8 NO. 3

MONTANA NOMINEE....Great Falls Mayor Marian Erdmann, seated right, presents Mr. Louis R. Scharrer a certificate for being selected as the Montana nominee for the President's Physically Handicapped Man of the Year award. Standing in the rear is from left to right, Raymond R. Heusel, veterans representative, Montana State Employment Service; Great Falls Fire Chief Charles Carrico and Russell Tank, civilian employment officer here.

Louis R. Scharrar Nominated As The Handicapped American

By Von H. Washington

Civilian Employee Louis R. Scharrar has been selected as Montana's nominee for the President's Trophy, which is awarded to the Handicapped American of the year.

Mr. Scharrar perofrms as a budget analyst in the 341st Strategic Missile Wing. He was nominated by the Great Falls Committee on employment of the physically handicapped to represent Montana in this nation wide program.

Once each year, the President's Trophy is awarded to the "Handicapped American of the Year" who has surmounted his or her own handicap to become a useful American Citizen and who has helped to encourage, inspire, or facilitate the employment of other handicapped Americans.

The Trophy is presented to the "Handicapped American" during the annual meeting of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. The Trophy is donated by and is the handiwork of the students of the Institute for the Crippled and Disabled, New York City.

Mr. Scharrar was born April 7, 1916 with a dwarfed body and underdeveloped legs which were necessarily encased in hip casts from the age of three through 11 in a fruitless effort to straighten them. When the casts were removed, he learned to walk short distances with crutches.

Louis spent most of his life helping himself and others who were handicapped. He often visited children hospitals where he told jokes, sang songs and encouraged them not to dispair over their handicaps. It was often said that "he left them with a dream that some day they, too, could be useful in life just as the 'little man on crutches'."

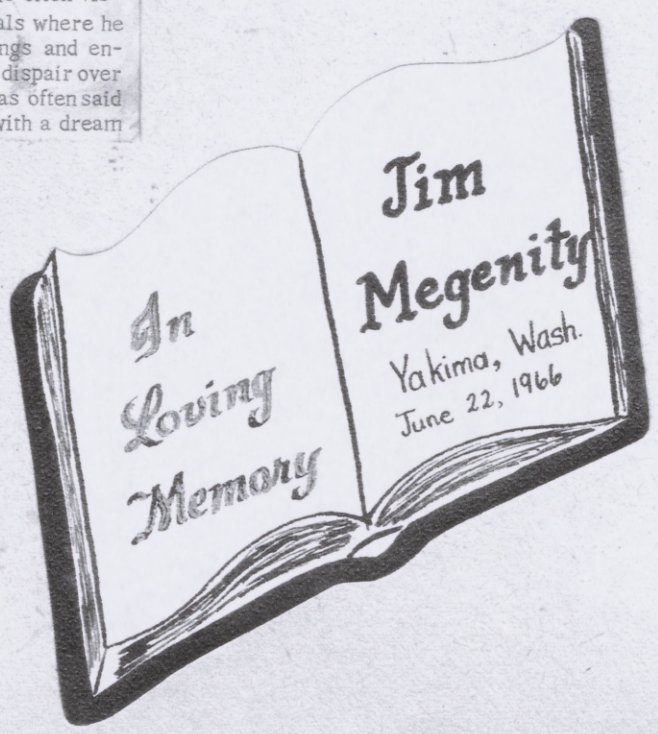
In 1961, he contracted cancer, which necessitated the amputation of his right leg at the hip. After four months of illness, he returned to his work. The doctors at Mayo Clinic, when they realized that his leg must be amputated, were appalled at having to tell this man who had suffered so much that his leg must come off.

Always one to console rather than one to be consoled, Louie made the doctors' job easier by saying, "Cut it off, Doc, I don't use it anyway."

He has submitted to medical study at Mayo Clinic and other medical groups throughout the age and cheerful attitude toward his afflictions are an inspiration to all who come in contact with him.

These are only a few of the many reasons why Louie has been chosen to represent Montana for the President's Trophy.

Any disabled American Citizen is eligible for nomination as the "Handicapped American of The Year," regardless of sex, age, race, creed, or formal education.



District

April 1st - 2nd

Spokane, Wash.

Hosts - Gracie & Henry

19

10th National

July 24th - 28th

Hollywood, Calif.

Hosts - District 12

District

October 7 & 8th

Longview, Wash.

Hosts - Ferne & Ralph Vining

Spokane – April 1-2

L-R at the Head table:
Marth & Joe Alexander
Frieda Groeneveld; Henry & Gracie Street

L-R
Gracie & Henry Street - Spokane
Donna Perfetti - Spokane

Sandra Howard
Doyle Harris - Pullman, Wash.

Little People's district meet to be held this weekend

"What would you do if you stepped inside an automatic elevator, the doors closed behind you and you couldn't reach the button for the floor you wished or even the one for opening the door? . . . How would you manage to get a drink of water from a bubbling drinking fountain when you were thirsty, and it was at least six inches above your head?"

Thus begins an article in the March 31 issue of the Spokesman-Review of Spokane, written by Staff Writer Grace Street. The article tells a lot of interesting facts about the Little People of America, particularly those of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and Wyoming who make up District 11 of the LPA.

And, when District 11 meets in Goldendale this weekend, Grace will be here to take part—for she is an LPA member also. In her story, "Little People View New Horizons," she is viewing a familiar subject from a familiar and convenient level.

Headquarters for the Little People of District 11 this weekend will be the Joe Alexander home, on Collins Drive. Joe has been a busy man, making preparations for the housing and entertainment of District 11 people, for he is chairman of the district, and the district meeting is his "baby."

The Saturday night banquet and official meeting will take place at Goldendale Country Club. Before that, however, will be a meeting of the Parents Auxiliary, at the Oasis Cafe, and a bowling party for Little People at Golden Lanes during the afternoon.

Sunday will find the Little People socializing and enjoying themselves at the Alexander home, or in some cases, attending church, before departing for their homes by mid-day or after.

Little People 'Think Big' in Association Programs

By GRACE STREET
Spokesman-Review Staff Writer

Little people "think big" when it comes to planning district conventions in the "big" world of everyday living.

Motto of the Little People of America, an organization of over 3,000 persons in the United States, including dwarfs, midgets and other persons under four feet, 10 inches tall is "think big." The organization, which first met in 1960 in Las Vegas, Nev., was formed to aid little people with social, educational and moral support, in association with others who have the same problems.

District 11 in the association of 12 districts is meeting in Spokane for the first time Saturday. Membership in the district includes 63 little persons in Washington, Idaho, Alaska, Oregon, Montana and Wyoming. The 63, however does not include all who are eligible, George "Joe" Alexander of Goldendale, Wash., district chairman, said. Alexander, who is just over four feet tall himself, is a teacher in the Goldendale school system. His wife, Martha, is a few inches shorter.

About 30 little people are expected for the all day session, meeting first at E604 Sanson. A dinner with business and entertainment, followed by dancing is planned that evening in the Flamingo, N5505 Division.

Speaker for the dinner will be M. W. Priebe, selective placement counselor with the Washington State Employment Service, who will tell the group the importance of education in the career world for little people.

Several of the members are teen-agers who must plan their future careers with more care than the ordinary person in order to compete for jobs in such areas as carpentry, automobile repair, electrical work or mail carrying. Sights must be set on college to become an accountant, teacher, artist, a salesperson with a specialty, in order to make a living, said Alexander.

Secretary of District 11 is Frieda Groeneveld, a kindergarten teacher in the Franklin Pierce School District in Tacoma. She is a 3 feet 11 inches tall, dwarf, who sees her pupils at eye level.

Many in the association are dwarfs, with short arms and legs, which presents problems with clothing, automobiles, chairs, and many other things.

Humor helps solve many of the problems of little people. Ideas exchanged at conventions tell others how to make a call in a telephone booth, operate an automatic elevator with buttons high above the head, take a sip of water from a five foot drinking fountain, climb a high stool at a lunch counter, turn on the shower and adjust the nozzle in a motel, or put a dime in a soft drink machine.

Planning the district session in Spokane are Susan Roethle, a 16-year-old high school student at Holy Names academy, Robert Hubof, a 17-year-old Post Falls High School student, Donna Perfetti, a telephone sales woman, Roy Berggren, a wholesaleman, and Harold Erdman, a watch repairman.

Little People of America will hold a national convention in Los Angeles, this year, meeting July 24 to July 28, Alexander said.

Parents with children destined to be dwarfs or midgets are urged to attend the meeting and become associated with the group, Alexander added.

Little People Delegates Prepare for Convention
From left: Susan Roethle, Robert Hubof of Post Falls and Donna Perfetti.

Meeting – Birkenfeld, Oregon
May 18, 1967
Host – Shirley Berg

Pictured below are – back L-R:
Ferne Vining; Clark Belange; Ralph Vining; Gloria VanLoo;
Shirley Berg; Angie Albrecht; Genevieve Shaw; Joe Alexander
Gloria VanLoo, Shirley Berg
Front L-R:
Steve Reed; Mardi VanLoo; Frieda Groeneveld; Karen Bartolotti;
Agnes Owen; Emma Furlong;
– David, B.J. and Randy Bradford

GROUP OF Little People of America at recent gathering at home of Shirley Berg near Birkenfeld. (Name

Little People Meet at Bergs

A meeting of members of the Little People of America association from this area gathered recently at the home of Miss Shirley Berg at Birkenfeld for a day of fun and planning for the national convention to be held in Hollywod in July. This area is a part of district 11 which takes in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

Those pictured above are, back row from left: Ferne Vining, Kelso, who trims poodles and works for a telephone answering service; Clark Belange, Boring, who works for fire department and on the chicken ranch owned by his folks; Ralph Vining, Kelso, Coca Cola machine repairman; Gloria Van Loo, Portland ,student at Lincoln high school; Shirley Berg, membership chairman for district 11 and teacher's aide at Mist school; Angie Albrecht, Philomath, high school teacher; Mrs. Evan Shaw, Philomath, housewife who also has done work with the mentally retarded school; Joe Alexander, Goldendale, Washington, chairman for district 11, who is a speech therapist;

Front row: Steve Reed, Lincoln City, student; Mardi Van Loo, Portland, Lincoln high school student; Frieda Groeneveld, Tacoma, secretary for district 11 and a kindergarten teacher in Tacoma; Karen Bartolotti, Newberg, elementary student; Agnes Owen, Centralia, Wn., homemaker; Emma Furlong, Rochester, Wn., homemaker and district 11's eldest member (in her 70's but still active);

Three little boys in front: David, B.J. and Randy Bradford of Gresham, all pre-schoolers.

Not present when the picture was taken were Mr. and Mrs. Larry Carr, members who chose that date as their wedding day and stopped by after the ceremony. They are now residing in Portland.

Others in attendance were Mrs. Bartolotti, Mr. and Mrs. Don Bradford, parents of the three little boys, Evan Shaw and Al Reed, all of whom are ineligible for membership because they are of normal size.

The group discussed the National convention in Hollywood and also heard reports from the district 11 meet in Spokane in April. At the national convention, the program will include many eminent

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KAREN BARTOLOTTI, David, Randy and B. J. Bradford and Shirley Berg sun themselves on the steps at the Berg home during Little People gathering.

STEVE REED of Lincoln City, right, shows B. J. Bradford of Gresham a baby chick as Little People explored the farm of the Bergs at Birkenfeld.

GAMES, VISITING and business occupied those in attendance at recent meeting of Little People at Berg home near Birkenfeld.

National - Hollywood

Pint-Sized Royalty

The newly crowned king and queen of the Little People of America — made up of midgets and dwarfs — meet their court after their coronation at the 1967 convention in Los Angeles. The royal couple each stand less than 4 feet tall. In fact, the queen, 26-year-old Mrs. Freida Groenveld, of Tacoma, Wash., is 3 feet 11 inches tall; and the king, Felix Silla, 30, of North Hollywood, Calif., is 3 feet 10 inches tall. Frieda is a kindergarten teacher and doesn't stand much higher than her pupils.

"Our Queen!"

Evening of the banquet

View of Universal Studios

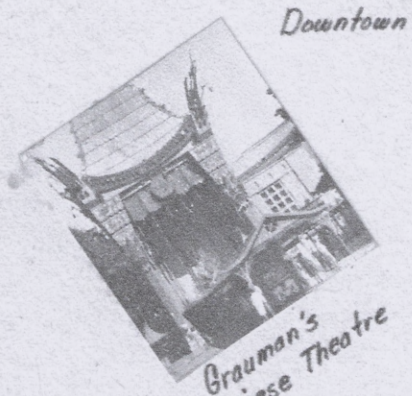
Los Angeles at night

King and Queen Of Little People

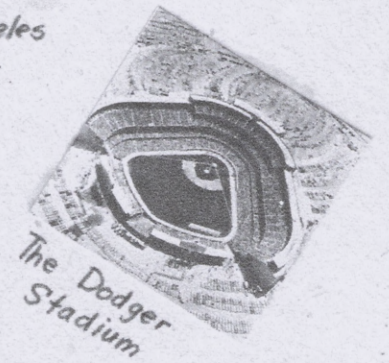
—Herald-Examiner Photo

Mrs. Frieda Groeneveld, 26, of Tacoma, Wash., and Felix Silla, 20, of North Hollywood, are shown after coronation as queen and king, respectively, of the Little People of America, Inc. The ceremony was held in Hollywood Knickerbocker Hotel at group's national convention.

Downtown Los Angeles



Grauman's Chinese Theatre



The Dodger Stadium

MIDGETS CROWN NEW KING, QUEEN

The Little People of America had a new royal family today — all miniatures.

Queen Frieda Groeneveld, 26, of Tacoma, Wash., and King Felix Silla, 30, of 11218½ Morrison St., North Hollywood, were crowned last night during coronation ceremonies held in the Hollywood Room of the Hollywood Knickerbocker Hotel.

Mrs. Groeneveld, a kindergarten teacher, cried after receiving her crown, saying: "It's wonderful." She has blond hair, hazel eyes, weighs 95 pounds and stands 3 feet 11 inches tall.

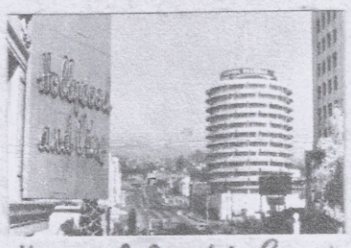
Silla stands 3 feet 10 inches tall and weighs 62 pounds.

The organization's new teeny-queen and king are: Miss Lydia Thomas, 16, of Detroit, and Tom Henderson, 17, of 14930 Dublin Ave., Gardena.

Named princess and prince of the diminutive convention among the children were: Mimi Wade, 7, of San Diego, and George Rossitto, 12, of 1137 Fuller Ave., Hollywood.

Among those taking part on the program were President Lee Kitchens and his wife Mary of Richardson, Texas, and actor Billy Barty, the LPA founder, of North Hollywood.

The 300 "little" people will close their week-long 1967 national convention here tomorrow afternoon.



Home of Capitol Records

The Cinerama Theatre

The Ocean and Beaches.

District Meeting
- Longview, Wash,
Host - Jorne & Ralph Vining

It's A 'Really Big World' To Little People Of America

By DARLENE SNYDER
Daily News Staff Writer

"We want to be judged on our abilities and not on our size," said Joe Alexander at a recent district meeting of the Little People of America at the R. L. Vining residence in Kelso.

Alexander is president of District 11, Little People of America, which includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Alaska.

The LPA is comprised of persons under 4 feet 10 inches tall and has national affiliations.

The variety of vocations and occupations represented at the meeting would indicate that the Little People are "king-sized" in abilities regardless of what their physical measurements might be.

Alexander, who is speech therapist for the public schools in Klickitat and Skamania counties, and his wife, Martha, traveled from Goldendale, Wash., to attend the meeting.

An excellent spokesman for the organization, Joe is earnest in his desire to change the image Little People have lived with for many years. He notes that there are disadvantages in being shorter than average but does not look upon this as a handicap.

He is a positive man. There is no talk of "equal opportunities" or "job discrimination" in his conversations. Rather, Alexander points out what has been accomplished by individuals because of their abilities. Adaptability and inventiveness, an observer notes, are the keys to this success.

IT'S A BIG WORLD

It's a big world they live in and when the word "extension" pops up, they are not referring to telephone service. It is a clever innovation made on their cars to enable them to be safe drivers. By extending the brake and gas pedals with an adaptation developed by one of the members they can drive with the ease and safety of anyone else.

Have you ever thought how a person four feet tall could use a dial telephone or a self-operating elevator?

Once again, necessity brought about the invention of a clever device enabling them to reach those "faraway places." It is an aluminum extension that telescopes down to a few inches in length and can be carried in a pocket or handbag. The telephone receiver can be removed, a coin deposited and the numbers dialed with ease and agility.

That old adage, "If the shoe fits," might well be changed in this case to "If the shoe doesn't fit, remodel it."

Miss Frieda Groeneveld of Tacoma, a sparkling, petite blonde delegate, was crowned National Queen of the Little People of America at their national convention held in California.

A kindergarten teacher in the Franklin-Pierce district, she said with a twinkle that she feels her height is an advantage in many ways in her profession. Kindergarten is most youngsters' first introduction to school and they seem to accept their new teacher with zeal. Discipline poses no problem, she said, and a conversation with her makes one feel that she views nothing as a "problem," only a slight inconvenience.

The LPA organization encompasses not only adults but children as well, the "little, little people," as they are affectionately called.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reckendorf of Corvallis, Ore., are co-chairmen of the parents' auxiliary unit.

Their son, Peter, is 17 months old and a handsome, outgoing youngster. Both Mr. and Mrs. Reckendorf are of average size and feel that they have a lot to learn so they can be the right kind of parents for their son.

Mrs. Reckendorf is a home economics graduate and teaches on the Oregon State College staff. She has a straight-forward approach and is quick to point out that the greatest concern of parents of little, little people is that they will be given too much kindness and protection outside the home and not be allowed to grow up as independent individuals.

The main purpose of the auxiliary, she said, is to give parents of little, little people an opportunity to exchange ideas with one another and learn from each other's experiences.

"The youngsters, as a group, are very average," Mrs. Reckendorf said. "There are some who are of exceptional intelligence, most are average and a few below average — just as in any other group of children." She noted that there is much parents can gain by this association.

The meeting was attended by members from as far away as Great Falls, Mont. This is a good indication of the importance of the organization to those who belong. It also indicates that there is a definite purpose and goal that will be attained — the right of each individual to be judged by their accomplishments and not their height. It's a "tall goal" but they are a determined group.

DELEGATES CONVENE
Members of the Little People of America of District 11 met at the R. L. Vining residence in Kelso recently. Shown, from left to right, are Joe Alexander, district president; Mrs. Alexander; Mrs. Thomas Barta; Mrs. Vining and Mr. Vining, host couple for the meeting.

TIME OUT FOR FUN
While the adults tended to the serious business at hand, the 'little, little people', as children everywhere will do, found time for games and play. Their parents were attending District 11 meeting of the Little People of America.

'Little People' Have Big Job For Tiny Visit

When You're 4 Feet Tall, Problems Are Different

By VIRGINIA RANKIN

A little person with a big job was in Corvallis recently. She came to make use of reference material available at the Oregon State University library and to consult with her friend, Mrs. Frank Reckendorf, 322 North 21st.

Miss Frieda Groeneveld was the visitor and her big job is to work out a national handbook for "little people". Miss Groeneveld was appointed chairman of this newly-organized project by the Little People of America during their convention last July in Hollywood, Calif. This four-foot tall, 100-pound blonde not only was voted chairman of the project, which could and probably will require years of research, but to date she is the entire committee.

At the OSU library, Miss Groeneveld searched out references on "little people" in past situations, as found in books, journals and periodicals. She excluded references in the medical field, as American medical specialists have agreed to undertake this task.

Would Help Many

Why do Little People of America feel the need for such a handbook? There are several major reasons:

1. To help all little people, who are widely spread geographically, learn how others have made adaptations to live more freely in a "tall world."

2. To help parents, usually who are of normal height, with drawfed children to learn their adjustments earlier and make the transition more natural and easy for them. This means education of the parents as well as for their youngster and so far there has been only meager help available to parents.

3. The handbook also will detail for "little people" and their parents what sources there are for suitable clothing, shoes, adjustments on transportation vehicles, such as cars and bicycles, household and kitchen aids, as well as educational and vocational opportunities.

Seeks References

Miss Groeneveld will seek out nucleus reference materials and then ask others in the organization with access to the references to work with her in compiling the data.

The national organization selected a person who has proved able to adapt to the "tall world" and most of all capable of working for a career and doing a good job in her specialty. The little lady currently is a kindergarten teacher in the Franklin-Pierce School District, Tacoma, Wash.

She was born in Everett, Wash. of normal-sized parents and has three normal-sized sisters. As a child, it became obvious to her family that Frieda was going to be small in stature. She is what the medics call an achondroplastic dwarf. They have a near-normal size trunk but short arms and legs, resulting from lack of cartiledge development. Some medics think this is caused by an abnormality of the endocrine glands and that it can be inherited. But there also is a genetic factor to be considered, many other doctors believe. Until recently there has been 20 forms of dwarfism described; today there are 60 forms, on the medical books. Actually, dwarfs are one of the nations most overlooked minority groups. Nobody knows for certain just how many of them there are or that the height of 4 ft. 10 in. is the right place to distinguish between little and big people.

Organized To Meet

One of the main reasons for formation of Little People of America was to get some kind of organized situation through which little people could meet one another and through which medical research could progress on causes and possible prevention of such births.

Not only was Miss Groeneveld named chairman of the Handbook Project at the national convention, but she also was esteemed by members who voted her Queen of the 1967 Convention. A queen is selected on the basis of attitude, personality, [illegible] as well as

NEWLY-INVENTED extender makes Miss Groeneveld five-feet tall, she commented as she demonstrated its use in depositing coin and dialing a public phone. It isn't easy for four-foot tall persons to live in a world setup for persons a good foot or more taller.

LADDER PUTS Frieda Groeneveld on counter level at OSU lib and Mrs. Frank Reckendorf made use of reference material f People's Handbook, project for which Miss Groeneveld is chairm

in some form or other. Our problem is that our handicap visible!"

Mrs. Reckendorf honored er guest with a reception efore she returned to acoma, driving a small oreign car with built-in exenders on the clutch, brake and gear-shift.

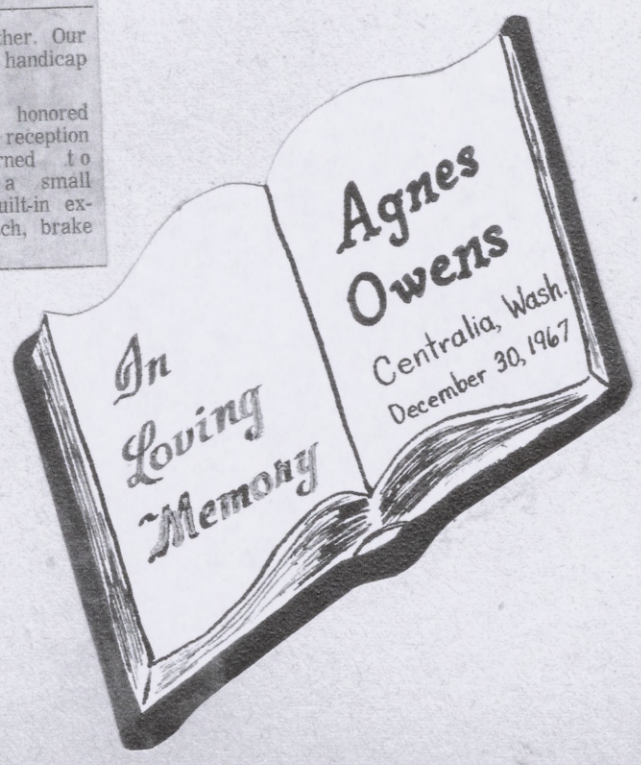
Arab Terror Shells Fired In Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (AP) — Arab terrorists fired nine mortar shells and wounded a child late Wednesday night in Petah Tiqva, a residential suburb only 6 miles from the heart of Tel Aviv.

The attack was the closest to Israel's largest city reported since the June war. Security forces went after the raiders and set up roadblocks.

A report from the state Fire Marshal was received regarding the possibility of building an additional room in the school attic. The report stated that some type of outside entrance or exit is necessary. No action was taken by the board.

Tong reported to the board that he had been successful



District

Goldendale, Wash.

Hosting ~ The Alexanders

11th National

July 21st - 26th

Baltimore, Md.

Hosting ~ District 3

District

October 5 & 6

Corvallis, Ore.

Hosting ~ The Shaws

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ART
PROFOLIO